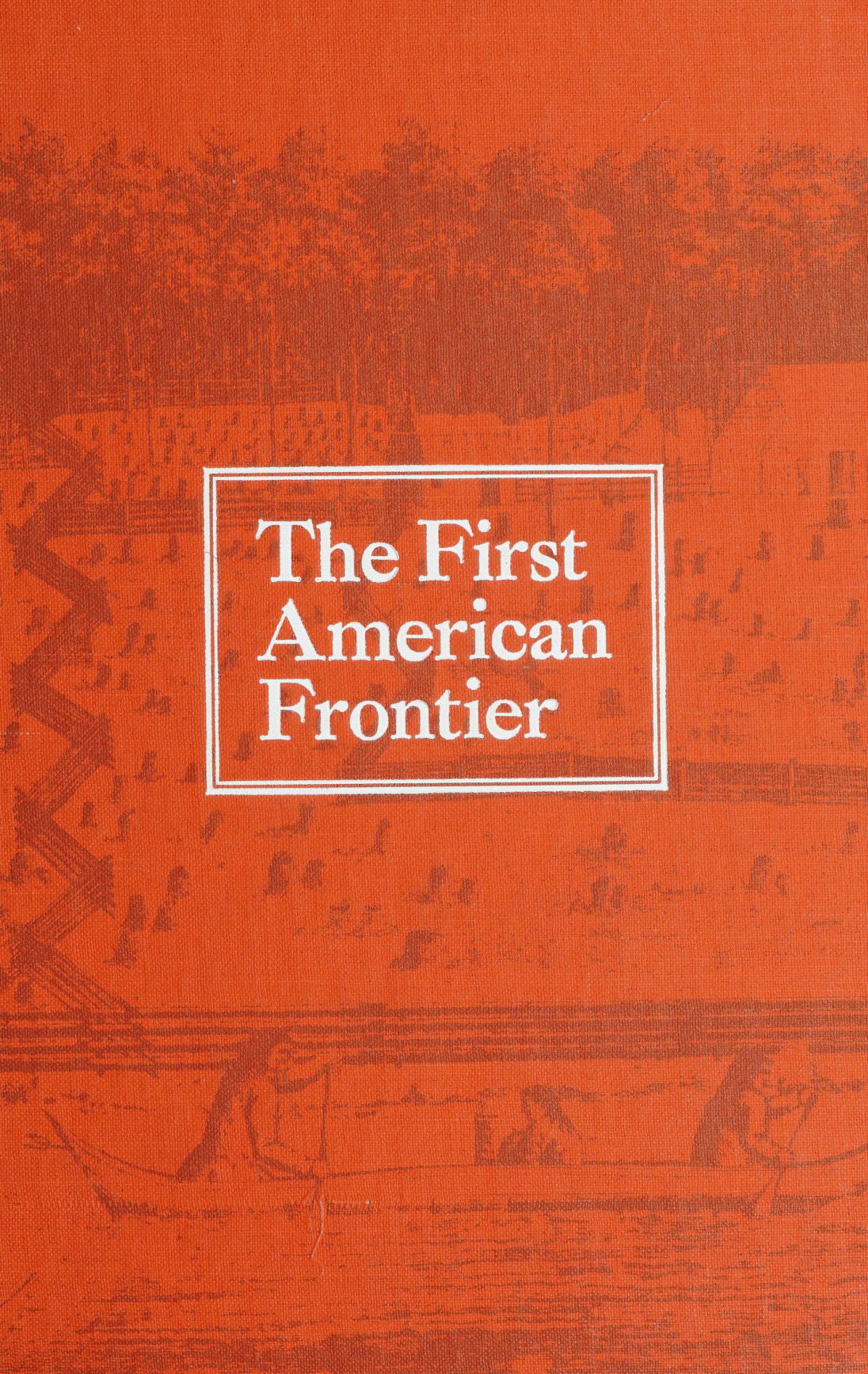
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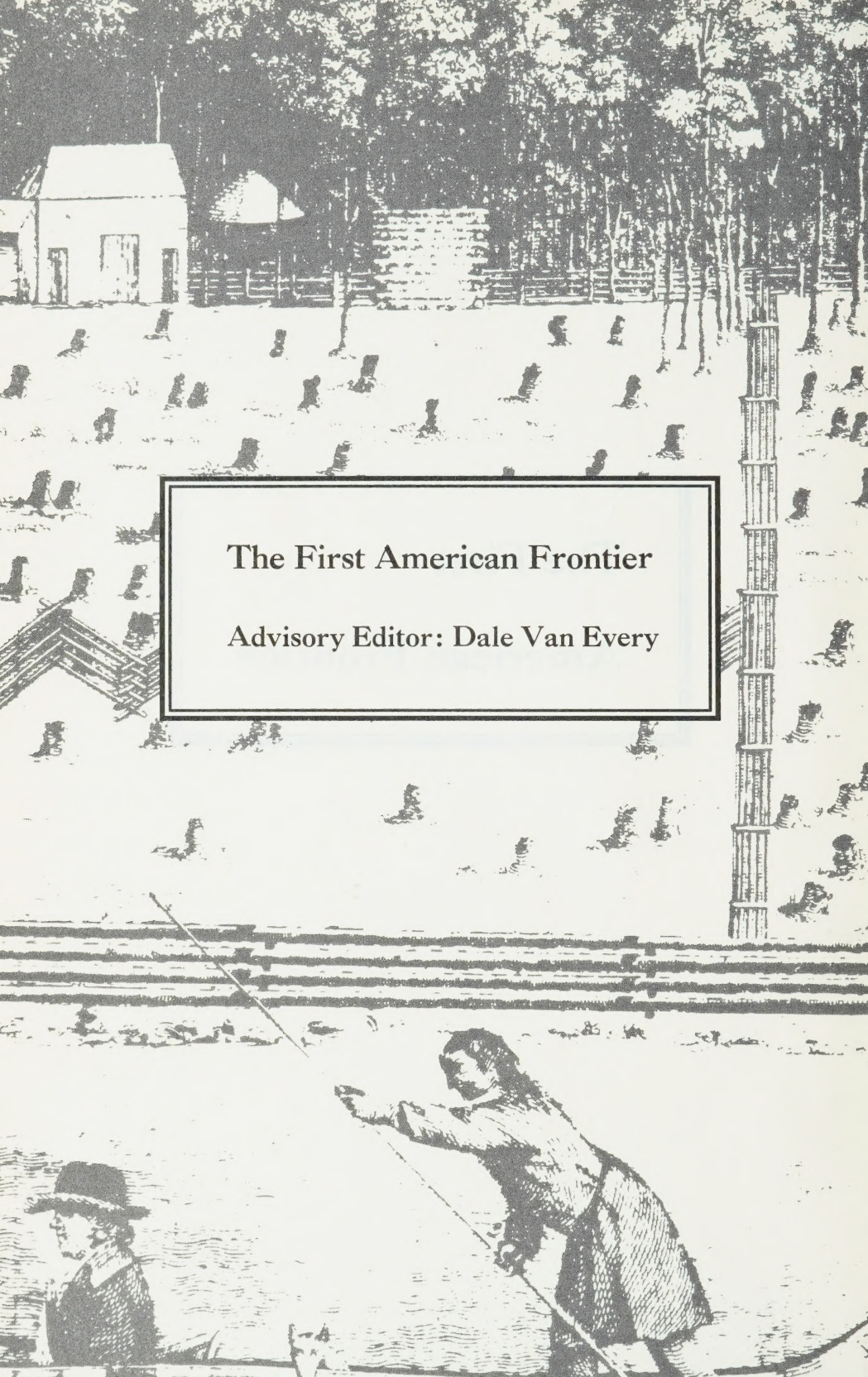
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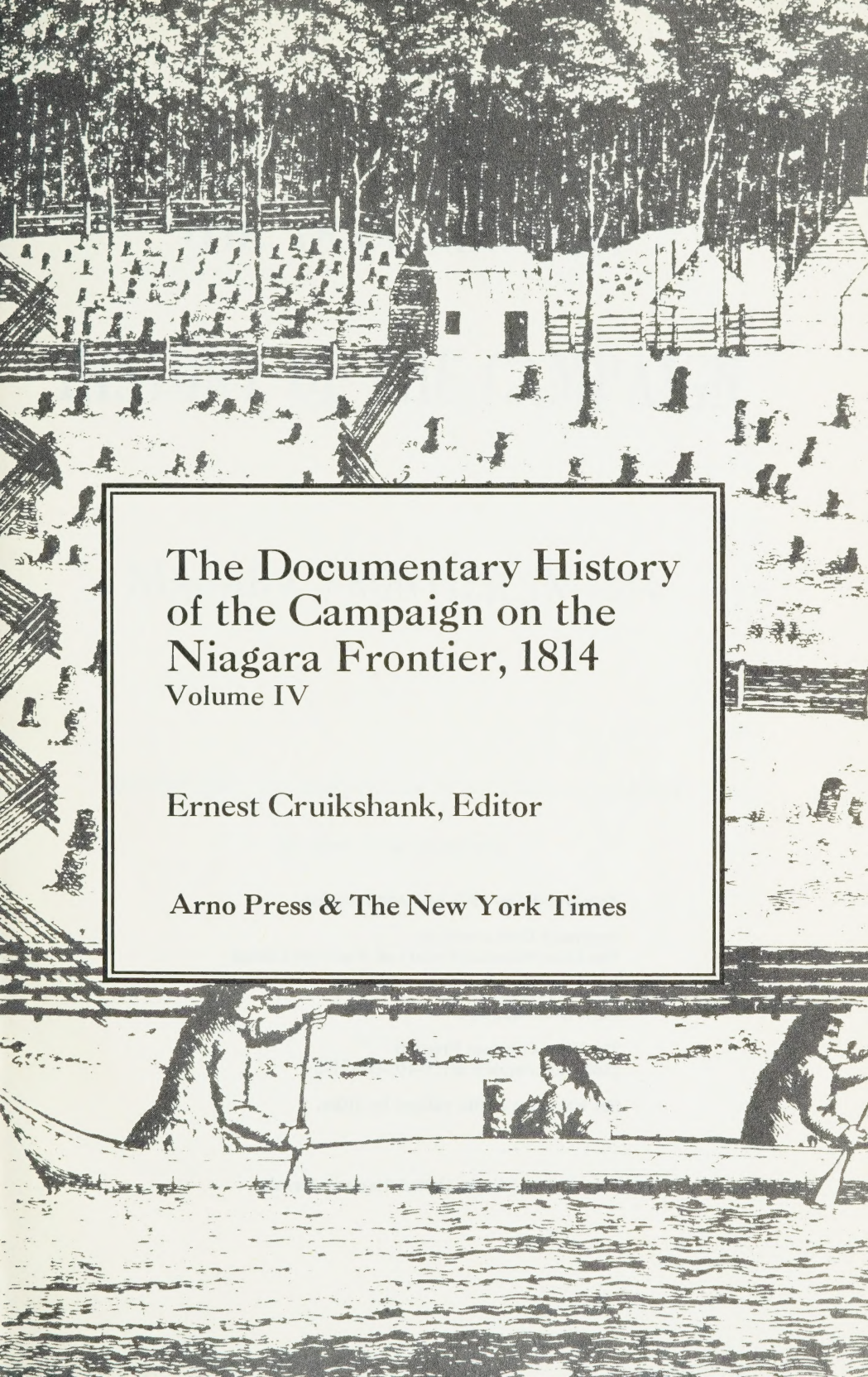
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The First American Frontier



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Advisory Editor: Dale Van Every



The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier, 1814

Volume IV

Ernest Cruikshank, Editor

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THE DOCUMENTARY

HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

— ON THE —

NIAGARA FRONTIER IN 1814.

EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY CAPT. E. CRUIKSHANK.

WELLAND:
PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE OFFICE.

The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1814.

LIEUT.-COL. JOHN HARVEY TO MAJ.-GEN. RIALL.

(Most Secret and Confidential.)

Deputy Adjutant General's Office,
KINGSTON, 23rd March, 1814.

SIR,—Lieut.-General Drummond having had under his consideration your letter of the 10th of March, desiring to be informed of his general plan of defence as far as may be necessary for your guidance in directing the operations of the right division against the attempt which there is reason to expect will be made by the enemy on the Niagara frontier so soon as the season for operations commences, I have received the commands of the Lieut.-General to communicate to you the following observations and instructions:

The Lieut.-General concurs with you as to the probability of the enemy's acting on the offensive as soon as the season permits. Having, unfortunately, no accurate information as to his plans of attack, general defensive arrangements can alone be suggested.

It is highly probable that independent of the siege of Fort Niagara, or rather in combination with the attack on that place, the enemy will invade the District of Niagara by the western road, and that he may at the same time land a force at Long Point and perhaps at Point Abino or Fort Erie. An attack of such a general and combined nature, if made, as it doubtless will be, in force, you can have no hope of successfully resisting by any other means than a concentration of your whole force at Burlington or Ancaster, leaving for the moment the garrisons at Fort Niagara and Fort George to themselves and those means of defence which it is expected that they possess and will most strenuously exert.

With your whole force thus concentrated in an advantageous and open position, the Lieut.-General has no apprehension of your not being equal or superior to anything the enemy can bring against you. On the contrary, if correct information of the enemy's movements be fortunately obtained by you in time to enable you to effect your own concentrative movements with that precipitation (that

rock which has so often been fatal to the success of our operations) Lieut.-General Drummond feels confident that, notwithstanding the proverbial caution of General Harrison, an opportunity will be afforded you of effecting, by one action, the defeat, capture, or destruction of a considerable part of the enemy's disposable force.

It is clearly to be understood that the abandonment, even for a moment, by the troops under your command, of their advanced position on the frontier for the purpose of concentrating at Burlington, is a measure which the Lieut.-General would approve only in the event, clearly ascertained, of the actual advance of the enemy in great force from the westward.

If the enemy's principal force be assembled on the Niagara frontier and smaller bodies advance from the westward and from Long Point for the purpose of threatening your rear, it will be sufficient (as no serious attack will in that case be apprehended) if you order the troops at Burlington to make a forward movement for the purpose of taking a position, say at Burford or Ancaster, or to dispute the passage of the Grand River, where the detachments at Long Point and Oxford can fall back on them, and the whole, with such Indians and militia as can be assembled, form a corps of observation sufficient to keep in check the enemy's force and cover your rear.

The whole of the troops on the frontier will then become disposable, and may, it is hoped, prove sufficient with the powerful *appui* they will have in Fort Niagara and Fort George and the aid which the squadron will afford them, to prevent the enemy's covering army (for it must be recollected that the siege of Fort Niagara will, in all probability, occupy a considerable part of his force) from being able to force back your division from the frontier and by that means greatly facilitate his operations against Fort Niagara by the possession of both banks of the river.

In the distribution of so comparatively small a force as you are likely to have for the defence of the Niagara frontier, the arrangement which would naturally strike a military man unacquainted with the character of the enemy he has to contend with, or with the events of the two last campaigns on that frontier, would be to concentrate the troops in some central position from whence they could be moved to either extremity or whatever point was invaded.

Such an arrangement, however, would leave the extremities of the line open to attack and would actually invite invasion, and the persons and property of the inhabitants would be left exposed to the smallest parties of the enemy's marauders. Experience, moreover, has proved that a small force may be distributed along the

frontier without any great risk of being cut off. It is, therefore, Lieut.-General Drummond's wish that the distribution of the force should be made with reference to that of the last and preceding campaigns (previous to the attack of the enemy on Fort George on the 27th May last) and that all the stations that were then occupied from Fort George to Fort Erie (but not further) should be now occupied. Change of circumstances has prescribed a change of strength of several detachments—that at Fort Erie, for instance, the Lieut.-General conceives need not consist of more than one strong company of infantry, with a small party of artillery sufficient to man the 24 pounder proposed to be mounted in the southern demi-bastion, and this detachment (if the arrangement pointed out by the Lieut.-General to the acting-deputy-quartermaster-general be made) would be well covered and in perfect security against anything short of an invasion in force—and even in the latter case a small party so posted might not only very much annoy any craft or vessels which might approach the head of the river, but would operate with infinite advantage in the rear of any force which might venture to place itself betwixt two fires by landing between Fort George and Chippawa, and even if cut off its loss would be of no importance comparatively with the services which, under an intelligent officer, it might render. Chippawa should be *strongly* occupied (the *expression* is of course relative) and a detachment placed intermediately betwixt Chippawa and Fort Erie—say at Frenchman's Creek—and a rapid movement should be made from Chippawa to support the detachments on the right and to oppose any descent made above Chippawa.

I now come to a proposition made by you in a former letter to Lieut.-General Drummond for reducing the extent of the works of Fort Niagara, with a view to the reduction of the garrison. Your proposition will be referred to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, but in the meantime I am directed to observe to you that, considered in a point of view which does not seem to have struck you, Lieut.-General Drummond is so far from being inclined to diminish the defences or the garrison of Fort Niagara (still less wholly to destroy or abandon that fort) that it appears to him that 500 or 600 men of your division cannot be better occupied than in occupying, as they in all probability will, at least ten times their number, and *that*, it is confidently hoped, for no inconsiderable period.

Strengthened indeed as your division will be by the accession of a regiment of upward of 700 strong, (the 103d,) which will join you as soon as the navigation opens, the Lieut.-General is disposed to indulge the hope that much may be done even in the open field

against an enemy the greatest part of whose force will probably be directed against Fort Niagara.

In the reduced state contemplated by your proposal you are aware that that place could not possibly hold out for a single day against the powerful means which the enemy will be able to bring against it. By the adoption of that suggestion, therefore, it appears to the Lieut.-General that we should be voluntarily resigning for a possible but contingent good, all the solid advantages which the acquisition and possession of this fort is capable of affording us, and of which, besides the important one above alluded to, of occupying so large a portion of the enemy's force in its reduction, the benefit to the squadron of a secure harbor in which to take shelter, either from the weather or a superior enemy, is far from being the least—to say nothing of the negative advantage of the loss of that harbor to the enemy.

The occupation of Fort George as a flank to Fort Niagara is essential to the defence of the latter. A battery of a few heavy guns to bear upon the esplanade of Fort Niagara should, therefore, be immediately completed in Fort George. A small detachment, even in the event of its becoming necessary to withdraw the whole of the troops from the Niagara frontier for the purpose of cont centration at Burlington, would be sufficient to place in that for- (George), which in its turn is protected by, as it is commanded by, Fort Niagara.

A battery at Missassauga Point (Flagstaff) is highly necessary, and an enclosed one on Queenston Heights if time, &c., permit its completion.

In concluding these observations Lieut.-General Drummond has particularly directed me to invite you to communicate such remarks as may suggest themselves to you, and to beg that you will on all occasions freely and fully communicate your ideas on all subjects connected with your most important command, but especially on those herein discussed.

I am further commanded to take this occasion of assuring you of the very great satisfaction and consolation which Lieut.-General Drummond experiences in the reflection that the arduous trust connected with the command of the Right Division at this critical juncture is reposed in an officer of such tried zeal, activity and ability as yourself. I have the honor to be, Sir,

J. Harvey, Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, April 7th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to Your Excellency that Major-General Riall's last letter to me states that no regular force has as yet made its appearance on the American side of the Niagara River, and that consequently he supposes no part of the column which left Sackett's Harbor some time since had arrived in that neighborhood, conceiving, from the display the enemy used to make formerly, they will not be long in showing themselves when they do arrive, at the same time expressing his hope and belief that in the hands of the garrison (the 100th regiment), who so gallantly gained possession of it, Fort Niagara is, for the present, safe.

A Mr. Bell, a respectable man, and two others, lately made their escape from Malden, and report that there is not the slightest appearance there for a forward movement, nor did they hear it spoken of. They were totally unacquainted with occurrences at Presqu' Isle. On their way to Port Talbot they discovered the two guns left by the enemy in the woods near Point Aux Pins, and hid them so carefully as to prevent them from being found again except by themselves. Two gun carriages and two ammunition carts, discovered at the same time and place, Colonel Talbot has sent a party to destroy.

I am happy to inform Your Excellency that Assistant-Commissary Coffin, in the absence of Mr. Dance, has reported to me that the three months' supply of provisions, ordered to be deposited in Fort Niagara, will have been laid in there in the course of a week from the 27th ultimo.

Major-General Peter B. Porter to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, 8th April, 1814.

SIR,—I returned yesterday from Buffalo, where I met Mr. Parrish, with a talk from the Secretary of War to the chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations, inviting them to take up arms and form a corps to be attached to my command.

We met the chiefs of Buffalo on Sunday, and altho' they decline giving an answer to so important a proposition until they consult the chiefs of other villages, Red Jacket, who was the speaker, expressed his full conviction that they would all turn out. They have sent runners to the west and are to give us an answer at this place in four or five days from this time. Mr. Parrish is of opinion that we shall have 500 warriors ready to act with us by the first of May.

Our prospects for volunteers in this county and to the west are very flattering. There is every reason to calculate that from the counties of Ontario, Genesee and Niagara we shall raise from 800 to 1,000 men. In the more remote counties I have less faith. The zeal and patriotism of those who are not in immediate danger is not so much to be calculated on, and the most discouraging circumstance is that the pecuniary inducements offered to volunteers is so much below those offered to other troops. If the five dollars were added we should find no difficulty. We have encouragement, however, that Steuben, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Otsego, Broome and Tioga counties will average at least one company each, and a company is expected from Tioga in Pennsylvania. From the counties more to the east we have not heard, owing to the badness of the roads and the snail-like movement of the mail. Colonel Dobbins and several other valuable officers are engaged in recruiting among the detached militia on the frontier.

* * * * * * *

Colonel Swift is very active in engaging volunteers and will enter heartily into all the views of the Government in authorizing this force.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, April 10th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that Major-General Riall has reported to me his having been requested to attend a grand council of the Indians at the head of the lake. The Prophet has been chosen the principal chief of all the western nations. His having been presented with the sword and pistols from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent gave very general satisfaction. He has promised the most cordial co-operation, and says that their smallest boys capable of bearing arms shall be ready to march at a moment's notice.

I am much concerned to communicate to Your Excellency that the Major-General states three of the Six Nations, speaking through their principal chiefs, have requested the Major-General to represent to Your Excellency their dissatisfaction at the appointment of Captain Norton to be their leader. They say they will not acknowledge him as such, will pay him no respect or obedience, nor look to him for anything they want: that they know him not, except as a disturber of the peace and harmony that ought to exist amongst them: they have a head man whom the King has appointed, and they want no other (Colonel Claus): the representation made to Colonel Drummond was the work of a few who had no authority

to do so and it was not the opinion of the nations. The Major-General inquired if such was the general opinion. The chiefs of three, viz., the Mohawks, Oneidas and Tuscaroras, said it was theirs decidedly; the others, viz., the Cayugas, Onondagas and Senecas, refused to answer.

Lieut.-Colonel Robert Nichol to Sir Gordon Drummond.

York, April 22, 1814.

Sir,—A man of the name of Constant Bacon came over from the enemy the day before yesterday and has been sent to this place by Major-General Riall on suspicion of being a spy. I have examined him, and as I conceive the information he has given to be of the greatest consequence, and as it appears from a full consideration of all the circumstances to be correct, I have requested Colonel Stewart to despatch an express with it that you may have it in your power to act upon it.

I was always of the opinion that the enemy's troops on the Niagara frontier must be supplied on the opening of navigation by water, and that they would form depots in different places along the south shore of Lake Ontario, to be transported under the protection of their fleet so soon as it should put to sea.

To destroy these is an object, as I conceive, fully within our power, and which, if effected, must have the happiest effects on the future operations of the campaign, and, with the greatest deference, I beg leave to propose it. Great quantities of provisions, of which we are much in want, may be brought off, and what we cannot bring away can be easily destroyed. To succeed in this business, however, no time must be lost, for if the American fleet gets out, unless we should defeat them in a decisive action, the attempt should not be made. I am only waiting for a batteau to go to Kingston, when, if you see fit to undertake the business, I will be happy to give every assistance.

Bacon says the Americans intend attacking us on this side, which I think probable, but I firmly believe their principal object will be Burlington, and that a joint attack from both lakes will be made upon it. A blow of this kind, which if well arranged must succeed, would ruin us, and I fear unless Long Point is soon occupied in force it will be attempted and carried into effect.

Deposition of Constant Bacon.

York, April 2nd, 1814.

Examination of Constant Bacon, late a sutler with the division of the American army on the Niagara frontier, born in the town of Scipio, County of Cayuga, State of New York—left the American advanced posts on the 20th inst. and arrived at Fort Niagara about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day—gives the following information:

The troops on that line are stated by the officers and men to amount to 7,000, of whom (25th regiment) 500 at Hardscrabble, five miles in rear of Lewiston, 100 at Black Rock, and 6,400 at Eleven Mile Creek. There is an arsenal (log building) at Hardscrabble containing 500 stand of arms, deposited by the militia, who were all dismissed on the 11th inst.; there is also a quantity of ammunition and four wagon loads of entrenching tools. There were no field pieces. There is a depot of provisions on the Ridge Road at the widow Forsyth's, about nine miles from Hardscrabble. It consists of beef, pork, whiskey and flour, of all of which there is a large supply. There is a road leading from the mouth of the Eighteen Mile Creek on the west side. The distance is ten miles, but the road is very bad. Thinks there is at least 2,000 barrels of provisions at this depot. There is no force nearer to Hardscrabble than the Eleven Mile Creek and Buffalo, which are equi-distant (about 32 miles.) There are at the Eleven Mile Creek some heavy guns, viz., a long 24 pounder, an 18 pounder, one 9 pounder, two 6 pounders, two mortars, and a large depot of provisions. General Harrison is expected in about three weeks with a strong reinforcement from Detroit. The nearest depot of provisions to those already mentioned is at the mouth of the Genesee River and at the upper landing, exactly four miles, up to which place large schooners can sail. There are there large quantities of beef, pork, salt, and whiskey, and no batteaux, guns, or troops for their protection. The next, consisting of flour, pork, and whiskey, is at Irondiquet, a few miles further to the eastward. It is exactly four miles from the falls of the Genesee to the Irondiquet storehouse, and three miles from the upper landing to the falls. The country here is not well settled. The next depot is at Putney, which is between the Genesee River and Big Sodus—this depot is on the lake shore. It consists, as before, of a large quantity of provisions and salt, and there are no men stationed here, unless they have come very lately. There is also a large depot at Sodus. There is also a large depot at Oswego, but there is a strong force stationed there. A schooner of 40 or 45 tons is building at Irondiquet. He says the army on the

frontier has no boats, was in this province at Swagatchee (Ogdensburg), but has no acquaintance with any person there. His object in coming here was to get rid of paying some money which he owed for a cargo of liquors which he had bought on credit, and which had been plundered from him by the American troops.

Bacon further says it is intended to attack on this side.

ROBT. NICHOL.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, April 25th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit for Your Excellency's information a copy of a deposition of Constant Bacon, who was sent to York from Fort Niagara, having left the advanced posts of the enemy on the 20th inst., and arrived at that place on the evening of the same day.

Should this man's report be true, and should not the most ample supplies of provisions, particularly flour, be sent from the lower provinces, I feel strongly apprehensive that the right division will not be able to hold its ground, even though the entire resources of the country should be at our command.

Major-General Riall, I am concerned to report to Your Excellency, states to me that he has received a very strong representation from Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General Dance of the absolute necessity of decreasing the issue of flour to the Indians. Mr. Dance says that "without losing time by the consideration of the necessity on policy of this, I must repeat my positive conviction that at the rate of our present issues to them (nearly 1,200 barrels to the Indians alone per month) no effort of human exertion can supply this army many months longer, for the flour is not in the country." The total consumption he states at nearly 2,000 barrels per month, without including the garrison of York or the militia. The average consumption of the Indians of all descriptions being about 40 barrels per day. The consumption on the immediate frontier being about 20 barrels per day.

Major-General Riall feels much at a loss how to act with respect to the issues to the Indians, being very certain, in which I agree with him, that the reduction of any portion of the usual ration of flour will excite considerable discontent, and even defection, unless some other article is substituted for it. Fresh meat is not to be had, and very little, indeed, can be expected from fishing. Salt meat, therefore, is the only alternative, and this must be procured with immense difficulty from the lower province, and the transport of it by the squadron we cannot always depend upon.

From the enclosed information and the circumstances before detailed, I therefore consider that the safety of the province, in a great measure, depends as well upon the naval superiority as upon the destruction of the enemy's vessels, etc., at Sackett's Harbor, and there does not appear to me a more favorable opportunity than the present, could Your Excellency afford the means of undertaking the enterprise, which, to ensure a reasonable hope of success, cannot consist unquestionably of less than 4,000 effective men.

Return of the Resources of the Niagara and London Districts, Including the West Riding of the Home District.

1st Lincoln—442 cwt. of flour, 7,997 bushels wheat, 1,299 bushels rye, 1,387 bushels oats, 134 bushels corn, 38 bushels barley, 184 bushels peas, 6 fat cattle, 33 to fat, 257 oxen, 1,206 cows, 1,057 young cattle, 3,222 sheep, 1,705 hogs, 835 tons of hay, 733 horses, 254 sleighs, 105 wagons, 2,129 acres of wheat, 2 of barley, 101 of rye.

2nd Lincoln—337 cwt. flour, 7,881 bushels wheat, 301 bushels rye, 1,749 bushels oats, 180 corn, 511 peas, 11 fat cattle, 50 to fat, 403 oxen, 1,325 cows, 930 young cattle, 3,980 sheep, 1,676 hogs, 950 tons hay, 716 horses, 236 sleighs, 99 wagons, 3,228 acres wheat sown, 128 acres of rye.

3rd Lincoln—392 cwt. flour, 6,043 bushels wheat, 267 rye, 3,417 oats, 466 corn, 580 peas, 6 fat cattle, 50 to fat, 362 oxen, 1,087 cows, 894 young cattle, 3,028 sheep, 1,665 hogs, 1,073 tons hay, 598 horses, 174 sleighs, 106 wagons, 2,659 acres of wheat sown, 152 of rye.

4th Lincoln—400 cwt. flour, 6,000 bushels wheat, 350 rye, 3,000 oats, 520 corn, 280 peas, 12 fat cattle, 52 cattle to fat, 350 oxen, 1,236 cows, 1,080 young cattle, 3,205 sheep, 3,706 hogs, 975 tons hay, 500 horses, 200 sleighs, 80 wagons, 3,217 acres of wheat sown, 200 of rye.

5th Lincoln—2,000 cwt. flour, 12,700 bushels wheat, 1,637 rye, 2,455 oats, 419 corn, 15 barley, 213 peas, 1 fat animal, 13 cattle to fat, 359 oxen, 1,318 cows, 677 young cattle, 3,110 sheep, 1,155 hogs, 543 tons of hay, 605 horses, 253 sleighs, 54 pungs, 85 wagons, 18 carts, 3,594 acres of wheat sown, 310 of rye.

2d York—2,022 cwt. flour, 9,797 bushels wheat, 589 rye, 2,062 oats, 157 corn, 96 barley, 142 peas, 102 cattle to fat, 472 oxen, 982 cows, 897 young cattle, 1,969 sheep, 1,308 hogs, 409 tons hay, 467 horses, 215 sleighs, 68 wagons, 3,365 acres of wheat sown, 1 acre of barley, 130 of rye.

1st Norfolk—473 cwt. flour, 3,211 bushels wheat, 2,495 rye,

1,587 oats, 446 corn, 55 peas, 48 cattle to fat, 288 oxen, 520 cows, 475 young cattle, 1,180 sheep, 954 hogs, 249 tons hay, 265 horses, 84 sleighs, 37 pungs, 49 wagons, 20 carts, 1,257 acres of wheat sown, 551 of rye.

2nd Norfolk—407 cwt. flour, 4,093 bushels of wheat, 3,199 rye, 2,093 oats, 487 corn, 4 peas, 5 cattle to fat, 280 oxen, 651 cows, 583 young cattle, 1,472 sheep, 1,050 hogs, 208 tons of hay, 373 horses, 101 sleighs, 19 pungs, 65 wagons, 3 carts, 1,483 acres of wheat sown, 620 of rye.

Oxford—226 cwt. flour, 2,798 bushels wheat, 983 rye, 1,861 oats, 831 corn, 129 peas, 8 cattle to fat, 278 oxen, 649 cows, 623 young cattle, 1,395 sheep, 1,050 hogs, 232 tons hay, 242 horses, 41 wagons, 63 sleighs, 872 acres of wheat sown, 132 of rye.

Recapitulation—Flour, 6,699 cwt., equal to 3,828 barrels: 60,520 bushels wheat, 11,031 bushels rye, 19,611 bushels oats, 3,640 bushels corn, 149 bushels barley, 2,099 bushels peas, 36 fat cattle, 361 cattle to fat, 3,046 oxen, 8,974 cows, 7,219 young cattle, 22,561 sheep, 12,329 hogs, 5,474 tons of hay, 4,529 horses, 1,589 sleighs, 110 pungs, 698 wagons, 41 carts, 21,756 acres of wheat sown, average yield 12 bushels per acre, 3 acres of barley, 2,330 acres of rye, average yield 15 bushels per acre.

Dated February 24th, 1814.

General Peter B. Porter to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, 3rd May, 1814.

SIR,—The first of the month, Your Excellency knows, was appointed for the rendezvous of the volunteers at this place, when I had reason to hope, as well from the assurances I received before leaving Albany as from the obvious necessity of the thing itself, there would be some tents and other camp equipage provided for our accommodation.

About ten days ago, seeing no prospect of the arrival of these articles and dreading the embarrassments which the want of them would occasion, I sent directions to the recruits in various parts to remain where they were until further orders. A considerable number, however, whom the order did not reach, have come in. These I can made shift to dispose of.

On the first and second inst., about forty officers came in for instructions. The difficulty of the situation was great. I had no alternative consistent with my reputation and that of the government but to dismiss the recruits and wholly abandon the undertaking, or to prosecute it with all the energy and effect which a

total destitution of the necessary means would allow. Not feeling authorized to do the first, I resolved of course on the latter.

From the information of the officers I calculate that we have now about 1,000 recruits engaged. Having now so many assistants, we can recruit with great rapidity. The officers all went home in high spirits, and we calculate to collect the troops at this place about the 18th or 20th inst., provided we shall in the meantime receive the necessary supplies of camp equipage, &c.

There is not a tent, camp kettle, axe or spade in the arsenal of this place.

Red Jacket and five other chiefs came in on Saturday to inform me that the Indians had all agreed to accept the invitation of the President, and they will join me here or in Buffalo any day I may name. There will probably be 500 warriors. The Oneidas receive an indemnity from the State about the first of June. Would it not be convenient to send it a little earlier this year, that they may have the benefit of it to prepare them for the campaign?

If I were furnished with the proper supplies I have little doubt but I could complete my corps in the course of the month. Colonel Swift and I shall set out for Onondaga and other counties to the east to-morrow.

Major-General Riall to Sir Gordon Drummond.

FORT GEORGE, May 19th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you a report made to me by Colonel Talbot, commanding the militia in the London district, that on the 14th inst. a party of the enemy, consisting of about 1,800 men, had crossed Lake Erie from Presqu' Isle and landed near Dover, which place, together with the mills and stores in its neighborhood, they destroyed, and after having committed every other excess possible re-embarked. They showed a disposition to land again at Turkey Point, but were, it is supposed, deterred from doing so by the appearance of a body of militia and a detachment of the 19th Dragoons, whom Colonel Talbot had assembled at that place. When Colonel Talbot had despatched his report the enemy's vessels were at anchor at the extremity of Long Point. Should they again attempt to land I hope they will be received by a detachment of troops and Indians which I ordered from Burlington, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Parry, 103d Regt., upon receiving the first intelligence of their attempt.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, May 27th, 1814.

SIR,—In my letter which I had the honor to address to Your Excellency on the 21st inst., I stated that a force of the enemy, at that time supposed to be about 300, had landed near Dover on Lake Erie. I have now the honor to transmit a letter from Major-General Riall conveying a report of Colonel Talbot, commanding the militia of the London District, on the subject. Your Excellency will, however, perceive that the force of the enemy has since been computed to consist of about 800 men, whose conduct has been disgraced during their short stay ashore by every act of barbarity and of illiberal and unjustifiable outrage. Not only a large store, fitted as a barrack for the militia, but every private house and other building belonging to the peaceable inhabitants of the village and neighborhood of Dover has been reduced to ashes, together with Ryerse's and Finch's mills between that place and Turkey Point. The court house and public buildings at Turkey Point were only saved by the appearance of the militia and a detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons, both of which corps, I have very great satisfaction in acquainting Your Excellency, evinced the strongest anxiety to come in contact with the enemy.

I have likewise received from Lieut.-Colonel Parry of the 103d Regiment the most satisfactory accounts relative to the conduct of the grenadier company of that corps and the light company of the 89th, placed under his immediate orders. The latter, he says, are wild, but with attention and management perfectly tractable and orderly, and Lieut.-Colonel Parry bestows much commendation on the zeal and alacrity with which the militia assembled, considering the distance from whence they were to be collected. The Lieut.-Colonel from all these circumstances feels convinced that had not the enemy retired to his shipping before his arrival, his little band, increased by a few of the rangers and Kent volunteers as well as some persons and some Wyandot Indians who joined him from Amherstburg, would have made the enemy pay dear for their outrages. He states that but one house, in which a sick woman resided, was left standing between Paterson's Creek and Turkey Point, and the enemy on retiring avowed their intention to destroy Port Talbot in a similar manner. And as their officers appear determined to pursue the same system throughout the whole of the western frontier, I feel convinced that nothing but the most vigorous opposition to such disgraceful proceedings will prevent a recurrence of them. The accompanying declaration made by Colonel Holmes, commanding at Amherstburg, to the inhabitants of the new settlement, is a proof of the enemy's nefarious intentions.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, May 31st, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith for Your Excellency's information the deposition of Mr. Mathias Steele of Woodhouse, in the District of London, agent to the property of Lieut.-Colonel Nichol at Dover, who was on the spot at the time the enemy landed there on the 14th inst., and which I feel satisfied is correct.

I have had a communication from Major-General Riall of the 25th, wherein he states that on the 23d three large vessels were standing in for Turkey Point, but that Lieut.-Colonel Parry with his small force, the militia and Indians, had no apprehension whatever of any numbers which could be conveyed in them.

It having been considered necessary, however, to reinforce the detachment of the Royals at Burlington, and as this latter place could but ill spare any drafts from its garrison occupied in the protection of its depot and in guarding a number of civil prisoners at present under trial for treasonable practices at Ancaster, the Major-General considered it necessary to move forward two companies of the 41st Regiment from York, until the arrival of the 103d Regiment at the head of the lake.

The Wyandot Indians, who lately arrived at the beach, amount to 90. They say that many more would join them, but that they are too closely watched by the Americans.

The Chiefs Blackbird and Splitlog, who were with us last year, have joined the enemy.

DEPOSITION ENCLOSED.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.

Personally appeared before me, the Hon. Richard Cartwright, one of His Majesty's Justices assigned to keep the peace in and for the said district, Mathias Steele of Woodhouse, in the London District of Upper Canada, Gentleman, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, saith: "That on Saturday, the fourteenth of the present month, an American force computed at about 800 men, and consisting of regulars, militia and seamen, the whole under command of a Colonel Campbell, disembarked at the mouth of Paterson's Creek from six schooners, where they encamped for the night. That, having met with no opposition, they on the following morning advanced and took possession of the village of Dover, and having plundered the houses of all the inhabitants and carried off all their provisions, set fire to the village and entirely destroyed it. They then proceeded to Ryerson's mills, situated a little further

up the lake, and set fire to them, with several other buildings, and proceeding still further up the lake destroyed another set of mills, belonging to Mr. Finch. He further deposeth and saith that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, they destroyed altogether twenty dwelling houses, three flour mills, three saw mills, three distilleries, twelve barns and a number of other buildings. He further deposeth and saith, that they shot all the cows and hogs which they could find, leaving them to rot on the ground. And further, that on the said Colonel Campbell being asked the reason of this wanton and barbarous conduct, where he had met with no opposition, he answered that it was done in retaliation for the burning of Havre de Grace, Buffalo, and Lewiston, and further this deponent saith not.

(Sgd.) MATHIAS STEELE.

Sworn before me at Kingston,
this 31st day of May, 1814.

RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, J. P.

Major-General Riall to the Officer Commanding at Presqu' Isle (Erie, Pa.)

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FRONTIER, June 19, 1814.

SIR,—The detachment of the United States army which lately made a landing at Dover on Lake Erie, having committed acts of outrage on the private property of the unoffending inhabitants by burning and destroying that village and the mills in the vicinity, I have it in command to request from you an explicit declaration whether those acts were authorized by the government of the United States.

Colonel John B. Campbell, 11th U. S. Infantry, to Major-General Riall.

June 16th, 1814.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 9th current. I commanded the detachment of the United States army which lately made a landing at Dover on Lake Erie. What was done at that place and its vicinity proceeded from my orders. The whole business was planned by myself and executed upon my own responsibility.

Opinion of a Court of Enquiry on the Conduct of Colonel Campbell at Port Dover, Held at Buffalo, the 20th June, 1814, Composed of Brigadier-General Scott, Major Jesup and Major Wood.

That considering the important supplies of breadstuffs, which from the evidence it appears the enemy's forces derived from the flour manufacturing mills at and near to Dover, Colonel Campbell was warranted in destroying those mills according to the laws and usages of war, and for a like reason the court think him justified in burning the distilleries under the said laws and usages. The saw-mills and carding machine, from their contiguity to the other mills, were, as the court conceives, necessarily involved in one and the same burning.

In respect to the burning of the dwelling and other houses in the village of Dover, the court are fully of opinion that Colonel Campbell has erred, that he can derive no justification from the fact that the owners of these houses were actively opposed to the American interests in the present war, or from the other facts that some of them were at the conflagration of Buffalo. In their partizan services it does not appear to the court that the inhabitants of Dover have done more than their proper allegiance required of them, and the destruction of Buffalo by a Lieut.-General of the enemy's regular forces was emphatically the wrong of the British Government itself, rendered such by its subsequent adoption of the measure, and ought not to be ascribed to a few Canadians who were present at the time.

Sir James Lucas Yeo to Lieut.-General Drummond.

Prince Regent, at anchor off Sackett's Harbor,
June 3d, 1814.

SIR,—The enemy's squadron being now nearly ready for sea, and it being too late for any joint attack on the enemy's force at Sackett's Harbor, I conceive it necessary to determine in what way His Majesty's naval force can best be employed to defeat the enemy's views and protect this province. I transmit you herewith a statement of their force, on which it is unnecessary for me to make any comment.

There are two things to be considered: 1st, what the enemy's squadron can effect before our large ship is ready? 2nd, what object have we for risking an action with our present force, when we will so soon have the superiority?

From the large reinforcements government are sending to this country, it appears to me to be their wish that a respectable naval

force should be established to meet the enemy, and that any rash, ill-timed or unnecessary risk would defeat their views. The enemy are not in sufficient force to undertake any expedition in the face of our present squadron, but any disaster on our side might give them a serious ascendancy.

In making this communication I trust you will give me credit when I assure you I do not write from the feeling of a captain of a ship, but consider myself placed here in a highly responsible position as commanding the naval force in this country, on which most materially depends the safety or loss of this province.

I therefore require of you, sir, as the general officer with whom I am acting, your opinion on the several points in my letter. I shall at all times be ready to take the squadron into action whenever the general officer with whom I am acting represents to me that he thinks it necessary for the good of the service and safety of the colony, but such sanction or authority, under existing circumstances, I will require, as I never can take the whole responsibility on myself.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir James L. Yeo.

Headquarters, Upper Canada,
KINGSTON, 6th June, 1814.

SIR,—Your letter of the 3d inst. has received my most serious attention. So long as your position off Sackett's Harbor was found to distress the enemy and to retard the armament and equipment of his new ships, so long it appeared to me that the blockade ought to be maintained, and so long in fact no risk whatever could attend it.

It appearing, however, from your letter that the enemy's squadron, including his new ship (Superior) and brigs, is now ready for sea, it is evident that the blockade has not had all the effect to which we looked, and moreover that it can be no longer maintained without risking an action with a squadron quite equal, if not superior, to that under your command, and under circumstances on our part of decided disadvantage. With regard to the probable objects of the enemy, and to what their squadron may be able to effect, I am of opinion that whatever may be their ultimate views, they will not undertake any offensive operations until their second large ship is ready, and even then I am very much disposed to concur with you that they will not venture in the face of your present squadron, and, with the knowledge of the powerful addition to it which is in rapid progress, to encumber theirs with troops and other means necessary for the invasion of any part of this province.

It follows, therefore, as my opinion, and I have no hesitation in giving it as such, that there exists at present no motive or object connected with the security of this province which can make it necessary for you to act otherwise than cautiously on the *defensive*, (but at the same time closely watching all their movements,) until the moment arrives when by the addition of the large ship now on the stocks you may bring the naval contest on this lake fairly to issue, or by a powerful combined expedition, (if the enemy, as is probable, should decline meeting you on the lake,) we may attack and destroy him in his stronghold.

In thus frankly giving you my ideas as to the line of conduct which it would be prudent and proper for you to pursue, it is scarcely necessary for me to observe that circumstances may arise which may render it expedient and necessary to adopt a widely different system, such, for instance, as the relief of the necessities of the advanced division, and expedition against Sackett's Harbor, &c., &c., &c.

But these circumstances as they may arise will be discussed by us with those feelings of perfect good understanding and cordiality which have, I think I may affirm, ever existed betwixt us, and which to me has been a source of great satisfaction and confidence.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter (in copy) from Commodore Sir James Yeo, covering a statement of the enemy's naval force in addition to their old squadron at present preparing for service on Lake Ontario, and requiring of me, as the general officer with whom he is acting, my opinion with regard to the employment of the squadron as soon as the superiority of the enemy's fleet appears unequivocal.

Coinciding with the Commodore in the propriety of not risking an action until our ship on the stocks here shall have joined the squadron, I have communicated my opinion to Sir James Yeo accordingly, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose for Your Excellency's information, and I request to be favored with Your Excellency's ideas and instructions on this important subject.

The Commodore, in consideration of the enemy's new ship, Superior, being with the rest of their fleet afloat ready to take the lake, has not judged it prudent any longer to continue off Sackett's Harbor, and has therefore come over to the Upper Gap where the squadron is now at anchor, as well to protect supplies proceeding upwards to the Right Division as to receive the seamen on board who have lately arrived from England.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, June 7th, 1814.

SIR,—By a report I have received from the Right Division I find that the traitor Westbrook, who formerly lived near Deleware town, made his appearance with about 30 riflemen of the enemy at Port Talbot on the evening of the 30th ultimo, where they made prisoners Captain Wilson of the militia and the miller, as also Captain Patterson at the house of Colonel Talbot. The miller effected his escape, but the others were obliged to take an oath similar to that administered to the inhabitants of the new settlement under pain of their houses being immediately burnt, as well as all others in the neighborhood. The party came from the westward, did but little damage and returned after a very short stay, through apprehension of their retreat being cut off by the assembling of the militia on the information of the man who made his escape.

Capt. J. H. Holland, A. D. C., to Major Deane, Royal Scots.

FORT GEORGE, May 31, 1814.

SIR,—I am directed by Major-General Riall to transmit you the enclosed secret instructions for the officer commanding at Burlington, which you will be pleased to hand to Colonel Scott of the 103d regiment on his arrival to take command of the post.

An extract of the part No. 1 has been forwarded to Lieut.-Colonel Parry.

I am directed to request that you will be pleased to acknowledge the receipt of this.

Secret and Confidential.

FORT GEORGE, May 31, 1814.

SIR,—As the entire command which the enemy possess of Lake Erie and the means they have of moving from Detroit makes your position very assailable, either by a landing at Long Point or its vicinity, or a movement along the western road, and as my measures will very materially depend on the reports I may receive, and which I beg may be always instantly forwarded to me, of any attempts of the enemy in that quarter, I have put together a few observations upon the line of conduct I could wish you to adopt in the command of the post of Burlington and the advanced detachments.

1. From the recent events which have taken place, that part of the country is evidently exposed to marauding parties, whose sole object appears to be the destruction of private property. For the purpose of checking these depredations I shall keep a larger detachment there than I had otherwise intended, as small parties of

observation at Burford and Long Point I should have considered sufficient to watch the regular approaches of the enemy. You will therefore detach a field officer and 200 men to Long Point and instruct him accordingly. The officer selected for this command will find the greatest assistance and resources in communicating with Colonel Talbot, commanding the militia of the London District, and such is the spirit and determination lately shown by them that I not only consider this force as perfectly sufficient to protect the inhabitants against any further marauding attempts, but even, should the enemy appear in regular force, he will be enabled, with their co-operation, to annoy his landing and harass his advance with very considerable effect, retiring on the Grand River upon the troops which will have advanced to that position from Burlington. It will be advisable for him to detach small parties at such points in his neighborhood as he shall see best suited for observing the enemy's motions on the lake, and as I shall be much governed in my intentions by his reports of the number and description of the enemy's force, he cannot be too strictly cautioned on this subject; indeed it has been a principal object with me to have an officer of rank stationed there upon whose information I could place dependence.

2. On receiving intelligence of any attempt of the enemy you will, of course, send such support to your advanced detachment as you shall judge necessary from the report of the officer commanding. But should a landing in great force be effected I wish you immediately to despatch information to the officer commanding at York, in order that he may immediately advance to Burlington with the garrison of that place, which he has received instructions to do in this event without waiting till my orders could reach him, at the same time that yourself with the whole of the troops and Indians at Burlington (leaving a sufficient guard for the commissariat and other stores) make a forward movement to the Grand River, where your advanced detachment and militia will fall back, and which position I should hope you will, with the means you have, be enabled to maintain. But should you find it not possible, your retreat should be made at once upon Burlington, as should the enemy's force be so great as to force its passage you will find it impossible to keep the open country about Ancaster.

3. There is always at Burlington a superintendent of the Indian Department, with whom you may make arrangements for the necessary co-operation of the Indians in any movement, and with whom you will communicate on all subjects connected with them.

4. It will be necessary to station an officer and 20 men at

Burford to watch the road from Detroit, and also to give notice of any advance in that direction to the officer commanding at Long Point, that his retreat may not be cut off, the enemy reaching the Grand River before him.

There is a corps of very useful volunteers under Lieut. McGregor, which it would be advisable to keep in advance of Burford, at Campfield's.

Lieut.-Colonel John Harvey, D. A. G., to Colonel Hercules Scott, 103d Regt.

KINGSTON, June 28th, 1814.

SIR,—I am directed by Lieut.-General Drummond to desire that you will continue to afford every possible assistance to the sheriff, not only in guarding and escorting the prisoners for trial, but also such as are convicted and under sentence. Additional irons are to be made if necessary, and every means taken to ensure their safe custody.

The men employed on this duty are at all times to be commanded by steady officers.

Lieut.-Col. John Harvey to Colonel Hercules Scott.
(Secret.)

Deputy Adjutant-General's Office,
KINGSTON, July 5th, 1814.

SIR,—With reference to a former communication, I am directed to acquaint you that, in consequence of the reduced state of the garrison of York and other circumstances, Lieut.-General Drummond has thought proper to withdraw, for the present, the power which was granted you of calling upon the officer commanding at York for a reinforcement of half his force in the event of an attack being made by the enemy upon the post at Burlington.

The General desires me to request that you will yourself see the prisoners who are under sentence of death at Ancaster. As it is most desirable to ascertain their security, you will be pleased to make an immediate report on the subject, for the information of Lieut.-General Drummond, who also directs me to desire that additional irons, leg bolts, etc., may be made if necessary, and in fact that every possible precaution may be taken to obviate all danger of their escape or rescue, which will, of course, become greater as the time of their execution draws nearer. The Lieut.-General depends entirely on your vigilance and caution to prevent the ends of justice being defeated.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 17.)

KINGSTON, July 3, 1814.

MY LORD,—I was detained at York by the meeting of the Legislature till the 18th of March, when I returned to Kingston and gave up my whole time and consideration to concert measures for the safety of the province. I strained every nerve to place our fleet in a condition most confidently to meet the enemy, by furnishing Sir James Yeo every assistance that could possibly be derived from the troops. With this united exertion the two large ships, the *Prince Regent*, carrying 50 guns, and *Princess Charlotte*, 44, were completed ready for sea while the American fleet were still in port and by no means in a state to come out to meet ours under a considerable time.

I projected an attack on Sackett's Harbor, which I did not think in the least chimerical. On the 27th April I communicated my design to Sir George Prevost and stated the force I deemed necessary. When disappointed in this, I turned my thoughts to the destruction of the depot at Fort Oswego, by which the American fleet has been retarded beyond measure in acquiring that degree of strength which must be vastly superior to our own before the enemy could venture to take the lake, and it is only now I learn that in a few days their vessels will, for the first time this season, leave Sackett's Harbor.

The strict blockade kept up by Sir James Yeo on the harbor and line of coast until the affair of Sandy Creek did much to retard their naval preparations, as they were obliged to send all species of equipments by circuitous land routes on which they experienced extreme bad roads. But they are now so formidable that Sir James Yeo will be obliged to remain in port until his new ship is finished. To conciliate the people I have directed the magistrates of each district in full assembly to fix upon a fair price to be paid for every article. It is highly probable that a similar vote of censure will be passed on my conduct as on Major-General De Rottenburg last year, and I would like to know if my conduct is unconstitutional.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 5th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the letter addressed to the officer commanding at Presqu' Isle by Major-General Riall, on the subject of the conduct of the detachment of

the enemy's troops which some time since landed at Turkey Point, together with Colonel Campbell's reply thereto.

This letter was received by Major-General Riall in the state I now forward it to Your Excellency, it appearing to have the seal of General Brown affixed to it, and as it enclosed a New York newspaper the supposition is that General Brown drew his pen across the insolent observation of the latter part of it.

Major-General Riall reports that the enemy broke up from Buffalo on the 27th ultimo and has proceeded to Eleven Mile Creek: from thence to the mouth of Tonnewanto it is only six miles of a good road, where it is thought they will collect their boats for the purpose of crossing over between Navy and Grand Islands.

The Major-General directed Lieut.-Colonel Pearson to make a reconnoissance from Niagara Fort, but nothing extraordinary was discovered within a circuit of six miles from the place. The Lake Erie squadron with troops on board sailed from Presqu' Isle the 20th ultimo, report said for Michilimakinac and Matchedash on Lake Huron. Nine gunboats carrying heavy metal were at Buffalo. The force of the enemy computed at nearly 5,000.

Captain Crowther of the 41st Regiment has arrived at Fort Niagara and is anxious to obtain a sanction from superior authority to return to his duty, as he conceives the parole exacted of him to be even more particular than that given to the other officers who came in before him.

On the relief of the King's Regiment Major-General Riall considered it advisable, in which I fully concur with him, to place the 100th Regiment at Chippawa and Fort Erie, the Incorporated Militia (now in an admirable state of discipline and efficiency under Captain Robinson of the King's Regiment,) with the Light Companies of the Royals and 100th under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Tucker, with the 41st Regiment at Fort Niagara, Lieut.-Colonel Pearson between those places, and Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton at Long Point.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 7th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that about 150 Western Indians, under Captains Caldwell and Elliott, were crossed over last week at Niagara for the purpose of ascertaining in which direction the enemy went when he broke up from Buffalo, and on this service they burnt the barracks at Hardscrabble, about five or six miles from Lewiston, capable of accommodating from 1,500 to 2,000 men. They returned without having committed the

smallest act of personal violence to any individual. But having brought off some horses and cattle, private property, it was thought proper to induce them to leave them behind, which they did with very great reluctance and dissatisfaction, and in remuneration for this forbearance I have deemed it advisable to give directions that 30 dollars each shall be paid for the horses and 20 dollars each for the cattle.

I am concerned to inform Your Excellency that a gunboat and a Durham boat of the enemy landed a strong party at Presqu' Isle (Lake Ontario) on the night of the 1st inst., where they burnt the storehouse of a Mr. Gibson and a small schooner which was building there by him.

Major-General Peter B. Porter to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

BUFFALO, July 3, 1814.

SIR,—General Brown crossed the Niagara this morning in pursuance of an admirable plan which was admirably executed, and invested Fort Erie, which surrendered to him this afternoon with a garrison of 120 men. And all this without the loss of a man killed and scarcely a shot exchanged.

As to my corps, I need not tell you, because Your Excellency knows how egregiously my expectations have been disappointed in every respect. Instead of being provided with clothing, quartermaster's stores, &c., by the general government, it was not until long after the force was to have been assembled and organized that I was able to obtain from the Secretary of War any recognition or even any notice of the existence of such a corps. I have not yet received a rifle, sabre, bayonet, blanket, and but a partial supply of tents.

I have 500 Indians and 150 mounted men with me at the place where General Brown wished me to be at the time of his crossing. The infantry I left at Batavia with Colonel Swift, who was obliged to wait a few days for the arrival of some quartermaster's stores and for some companies not yet arrived. He is, however, now on his march to this place.

My whole force will be about 1,000 volunteers and 500 Indians. To this General Brown has agreed to add, as soon as Colonel Swift arrives, the regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, which will increase the command to upwards of 2,000. With this respectable force and the fair support of General Brown, which I have no doubt he will give, I hope to gain some credit for the volunteers.

I find myself, however, commanded by two young brigadiers. Of my repugnance to the command of one of them (Scott ?), with

whose character I am better acquainted than the world generally, you were apprised last winter.

Had I foreseen the situation in which I was to be thrown, nothing would have induced me to have undertaken the task I did. But I embarked, and if I have but ten men I will persevere. General Swift is with me and I feel anxious he should continue. The expense of two Generals in the corps need not be an objection. As to myself, in whatever situation, I want only enough to defray my current expenses. My object is not pay.

BURLINGTON, June (July ?) 4, 1814.

Having received information from Major-General Riall of the enemy having landed, and considering it probable that an attack may be soon made on this post, I have been led to look most attentively at the works which are now going on under the acting engineer, and from the wretched state they are in I am of opinion that they are not capable for a moment of being depended on, nor do I see any prospect of their being made so. Under these circumstances I have been led to consider what may be the best and most expeditious mode of rendering this position defensible, but well knowing the misrepresentations that may be made of my conduct and of the present state of the defences of this place, and consequently the censure that would follow were I at once to order the men to be employed on the works in a different mode to what they have hitherto been employed, I consider it necessary for the good of the service, and for my own justification, to call on the senior officers in garrison to inspect with me the present state of the works, and also to consider of the plan I have now to propose, so as with the means in our power to put the place in a state of defence. Officers present, viz.:

Major Maule, D. A. Q. M. General.
Major Smelt, 103d Regiment.
Captain Brown, 103d Regiment.
Lieut. Charlton, senior officer of R. A.
Lieut. Engouville, acting engineer.
Lieut. Reynolds, D. A. Commissary General.

I have now to propose that the ditch of the old works shall be immediately widened and piqueted with the piquets now on the beach, a small angle to be thrown up so as to flank the ditch, the rampart to be repaired and thickened, platforms placed for such guns as are disposable. Two guns to be mounted on the new block-house near the work, such as the officer of artillery may think proper, and placed on temporary platforms as he may direct. These

I consider the first and most important works. Should time and means permit, platforms to be laid in the new works lately thrown up so as to enable the fieldpieces (if judged expedient to be ran out) to be fired over those works and to retard the advance of an enemy. Abattis to be formed on the ravine near the Red House so as to retard an enemy advancing on the left, the whole of the timber on the right bank near the marsh and in advance of the old works to be felled so as to cover the right flank. Should further time permit an abattis to be formed so as to connect in some degree the new works and retard the advance of an enemy. These, gentlemen, are the proposals I have to make for the purpose of putting this place in some state of defence in two or three days. At present I have not a doubt that it will appear obvious to every one that it is in no state whatever, and from the works at present going on there is not the smallest prospect of its being in any state of defence for many days. I have now to request your opinions on the plan I have proposed, and shall be most happy to adopt any other which may be considered better. For the purpose of expediting the cutting of the timber, I propose that the militia shall be employed, to whom a reasonable allowance shall be made by three respectable persons, to be chosen. By this means I am confident the place will be in a state of defence in three days.

H. Scott,
Colonel, 103d.

We are of opinion that the proposal of Colonel Scott is extremely judicious and should be immediately carried into effect.

Wm. Smelt, Major 103d.
J. Maule, Major, D. A. Q. M. G.
J. Brown, Capt., 103d Reg.
G. Charlton, Lieut., R. Arty.
Robt. Reynolds, D. A. C. G.

Abstract of Weekly Distribution Return of the Right Division, Major-General Riall.

Headquarters, Fort George, June 22, 1814.

Fort Niagara, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, 100th Regt.:

Staff—twenty-one officers.

Royal Artillery—one officer, twelve privates.

Royal Marine Artillery—two officers, three sergeants, thirty privates.

8th Regt.—one private.

100th Regt.—23 officers, 33 sergeants, 21 drummers, 535 rank and file—25 sick.

Total—47 officers, 36 sergeants, 21 drummers, 678 rank and file—25 sick.

Fort George and dependencies, Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, Royal Scots:

19th Light Dragoons—two officers, two sergeants, one bugler, 28 rank and file—five sick.

Provincial Light Dragoons—two officers, three sergeants, 16 rank and file.

Royal Engineers—one officer.

Royal Artillery—two officers, one sergeant, two buglers, 18 rank and file—five sick.

Royal Marine Artillery—three officers, two sergeants, one bugler, thirty-two rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—three privates—four sick.

Incorporated Militia Artillery—two sergeants, two privates.

1st Royal Scots—twenty-three officers, 44 sergeants, 18 drummers, 677 rank and file—88 sick.

103d—four officers, six sergeants, one drummer, 129 rank and file.

Colored Corps—one officer, two sergeants, twenty rank and file—four sick.

Total—38 officers, 62 sergeants, 23 drummers and buglers, 927 rank and file—106 sick.

Queenston and dependencies, Major Deane, Royal Scots:

19th Light Dragoons—one sergeant, eight rank and file.

Royal Artillery—40 rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—three sergeants, one bugler, 15 rank and file.

1st Royal Scots—10 officers, 13 sergeants, four drummers, 195 rank and file—eight sick.

Total—11 officers, 17 sergeants, five drummers and buglers, 258 rank and file—eight sick.

Chippawa and dependencies, Colonel Young, 8th Regt.:

19th Light Dragoons—one sergeant, four rank and file.

Royal Artillery—11 rank and file.

Incorporated Militia Artillery—eight rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—seven rank and file.

8th Regiment—25 officers, 28 sergeants, eight drummers, 398 rank and file—88 sick.

Total—26 officers, 29 sergeants, 8 drummers, 428 rank and file—88 sick.

Fort Erie and dependencies, Major Buck, 8th Regt.:

19th Light Dragoons—one officer, one sergeant, 23 rank and file.

Royal Artillery—12 rank file.

8th Regiment—eight officers, seven sergeants, one drummer, 111 rank and file.

Total—10 officers, 8 sergeants, one drummer, 146 rank and file.

Long Point and dependencies, Lieut.-Colonel Parry, 103d Regt.:

19th Light Dragoons—three officers, six sergeants, one bugler, 53 rank and file—one sick.

Provincial Light Dragoons—one officer, one sergeant, 13 rank and file.

89th Regt.—one private sick.

103d Regt.—eleven officers, 13 sergeants, two drummers, 187 rank and file—four sick.

Kent Volunteers—three officers, three sergeants, 41 rank and file.

Total—18 officers, 23 sergeants, three drummers and buglers, 249 rank and file—six sick.

Burlington, Colonel H. Scott, 103d Regt.:

Provincial Dragoons—three rank and file.

Royal Artillery—one officer, 18 rank and file—one sick.

Royal Artillery Drivers—one officer, one sergeant, 15 rank and file.

1st Royal Scots—one sick.

89th Regt.—one sick.

103d Regt.—18 officers, 29 sergeants, 20 drummers, 350 rank and file—20 sick.

Total—twenty officers, 30 sergeants, 20 drummers, 386 rank and file—23 sick.

York, Colonel Stewart, Royal Scots:

Royal Artillery—one officer, 12 rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—one officer, one sergeant, nine rank and file.

Royal and Provincial Engineers—two officers, one sergeant, 17 rank and file.

1st Royal Scots—two officers, one sergeant, three rank and file—nine sick.

8th Regt.—one sergeant, three rank and file—four sick.

41st Regt.—29 officers, 33 sergeants, 17 drummers, 493 rank and file—twelve sick.

89th Regt.—one sergeant—one sick.

103d Regt.—one sergeant—one sick.

Royal Newfoundland Regt.—one officer, one private—one sick.

Incorporated Militia—29 officers, 27 sergeants, 11 drummers, 339 rank and file—25 sick.

Total—65 officers, 66 sergeants, 28 drummers, 877 rank and file—53 sick.

Major-General Riall to Sir Gordon Drummond.

CHIPPAWA, July 6th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the enemy effected a landing on the morning of the third inst., at the ferry opposite Black Rock, having driven in the picquet of the garrison of Fort Erie. I was made acquainted with this circumstance about eight in the morning and gave orders for an immediate advance to Chippawa of five companies of the Royal Scots to reinforce the garrison of that place. Lieut.-Colonel Pearson had moved forward from thence with the flank companies of the 100th, some militia and a few Indians, to reconnoitre their position and numbers. He found them posted on the ridge parallel to the river near the ferry and in strong force. I received information from Major Buck that they had also landed a considerable force above Fort Erie. In consequence of the King's Regiment, which I had reason to expect the day before from York, not having arrived, I was prevented from making an attack that night.

The following morning (the 4th) a body of their troops were reported to be advancing by the river. I moved to reconnoitre and found them to be in considerable force, with cavalry and artillery and a large body of riflemen. Lieut.-Colonel Pearson was in advance during the reconnoissance with the light company of the Royal Scots, the flank companies of the 100th, and a few of the 19th Dragoons, four of whom and eight horses were wounded in a skirmish with the enemy's riflemen.

Having been joined by the King's Regiment on the morning of the 5th I made my dispositions for attack at four o'clock in the afternoon. The light companies of the Royal Scots and the 100th Regiment, with the 2d Lincoln Militia, formed the advance, under Lieut.-Colonel Pearson. The Indian warriors were thrown out on our right flank in the woods. The troops moved in three columns, the third (the King's Regiment) being in advance. The enemy had taken up a position with his right resting on some buildings and orchards close to the river Niagara and strongly supported by artillery, his left towards the woods having a considerable body of riflemen and Indians in front of it.

Our Indians and militia were shortly engaged with the enemy's riflemen and Indians, who at first checked their advance, but the light troops being brought to their support they succeeded after a sharp contest in dislodging them in a very handsome style. I placed two light 24 pounders and a 5½ inch howitzer against the right of the enemy's position, and formed the Royal Scots and 100th Regiment with the intention of making a movement on his left,

which deployed with the greatest regularity and opened a heavy fire. I immediately moved up the King's Regiment to the right while the 100th and Royal Scots were directed to charge the enemy in front, for which they advanced with the greatest gallantry under a most destructive fire. I am sorry to say, however, that in this attempt they suffered so severely that I was obliged to withdraw them, finding their further efforts against the superior numbers of the enemy would be unavailing.

From the report of some prisoners we have made, the enemy's force amounted to about six thousand men with a very numerous train of artillery, having been augmented by a very large body of troops which moved down from Fort Erie immediately before the commencement of the action.

Our own force of regular troops amounted to about fifteen hundred exclusive of the Indians and militia, of which description there were not above three hundred. Fort Erie, I understand, surrendered upon capitulation on the third instant.

Although this affair was not attended with the success which I had hoped for, it will be highly gratifying to you to learn that the officers and men behaved with the greatest gallantry. I am particularly indebted to Lieut.-Colonel Pearson for the very great assistance I have received from him and for the manner in which he led his troops into action. Lieut.-Colonel the Marquis of Tweeddale and Major Evans, commanding the King's Regiment, merit my warmest praise for the good example they showed at the head of their respective regiments. The artillery, under the command of Captain Mackonochie, was ably served and directed with good effects, and I am particularly obliged to Major Lisle of the 19th Light Dragoons for the manner in which he covered and protected one of the 24 pounders which had been disabled. I have reason to be highly gratified with the zeal, activity and intelligence of Captain Holland, my aide de camp, Captain Eliot, deputy-assistant-quarter-master-general, Staff Adjutant Greig and Lieutenant Fox of the Royal Scots, who acted as major of brigade during the absence of Major Glegg at Fort George. The conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Dickson of the 2d Lincoln Militia has been most exemplary, and I am very much indebted to him for it on this as well as on other occasions in which he has evinced the greatest zeal for His Majesty's service. The conduct of the officers and men of this regiment has also been highly praiseworthy.

Lieut.-Colonel Pearson has reported to me the excellent manner in which Lieut. Horton, with a party of the 19th Light Dragoons, observed the motions of the enemy while he occupied the position he took on his first landing and during his advance to this place.

Abstract of Return of Casualties in the Action Near Chippawa, 5th July, 1814.

General Staff—one captain wounded.

Royal Artillery—one killed, four wounded.

Royal Artillery Drivers—one subaltern wounded, two horses killed.

19th Light Dragoons—one sergeant, five rank and file wounded, one horse wounded.

1st Royal Scots—63 killed, 35 wounded, 30 missing.

8th Regiment—three killed, 24 wounded.

100th Regiment—69 killed, 134 wounded, 1 missing.

Lincoln Militia—12 killed, 16 wounded, 15 missing.

One twenty-four pounder limber blown up, two tumbrils damaged.

The men returned as missing are supposed to be killed or wounded.

Officers killed—Captain Bailey, Royal Scots; Lieut. Gibbon, Ensign Rea, 100th; Capts. Rowe and Turney and Lieut. McDonnell, Lincoln Militia.

Officers wounded—General Staff—Capt. Holland, A. D. C.; R. A. Drivers, Lieut. Jack; Royal Scots, Lieut.-Col. Gordon, Capts. Bird and Wilson (prisoner), Lieuts. W. Campbell, Fox, Jackson, Hendrick, McDonald, A. Campbell and Connell.

8th—Lieut. Boyle.

100th—Lieut.-Col. the Marquis of Tweeddale, Capts. Sherrard and Sleigh, Lieuts. Williams, Lyon, Valentine and Fortune (missing), Ensigns Clarke and Johnson, Adjutant Kingston.

Lincoln Militia—Lieut.-Col. Dickson, Lieuts. Clement and Bowman, Ensign Kirkpatrick.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Kingston, July 9th, 1814.

Sir,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that at a late hour last night I received a report from Major-General Riall, dated Chippawa, the 5th inst., in which he informed me that on the morning of the 3d the enemy landed opposite Black Rock in considerable force. The Major-General immediately moved forward with five companies of the Royal Regiment to Chippawa. On the 4th the enemy occupied a position along the banks of the creek which runs from the river by Mr. Street's house to the wood.

Being in hourly expectation that the King's Regiment would join him from York, (which it did on the 5th,) Major-General Riall

did not move forward to the attack of the enemy until four o'clock on the afternoon of that day. I regret, however, to state that the Major-General found it necessary to retire on the position at Chippawa after having sustained a severe loss, not far short, I am apprehensive, of 500 in officers and men. The enemy's loss must have been considerable.

It is with great satisfaction that I have to report to Your Excellency the very high terms in which Major-General Riall expresses himself of the steadiness and good conduct of the troops, but the superior numbers to which his force was opposed, (for I imagine they could scarcely have exceeded one thousand men,) rendered their gallant efforts unavailing.

By information received from prisoners, it appears that the American army was estimated at 6,000 men, with a considerable train of artillery. They were commanded by Generals Brown, Scott, Ripley and Porter. From the same source the Major-General was made acquainted with the capture by capitulation of Fort Erie on Sunday last.

The 100th Regiment has suffered severely, having had 12 officers killed and wounded; the Royal Regiment has lost in the same proportion. I am concerned to add that amongst the wounded are Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, Lieut.-Colonel the Marquis of Tweeddale, and Capt. Holland, A. D. C. to Major-General Riall.

The Major-General has not correctly ascertained what are the intentions of the enemy as to the subsequent operations, but he was inclined to think their efforts would be directed to turning the right of his position at Chippawa.

Major-General Riall's official report has not yet been transmitted to me, but the moment it arrives it shall be forwarded to Your Excellency.

Major Clifford with three companies of the 89th arrived here on Tuesday: they proceed with the light company this evening to the Right Division. I expect Lieut.-Colonel Morrison to-morrow with the remainder, in the course of the day, when they shall be pushed forward also.

I request Your Excellency will be pleased to expedite the movement of the 6th and 82d Regiments to this place, as the garrison is extremely deficient in strength, consisting only of the 104th and De Watteville's Regiments, and that you will be pleased also to order such officers of the Royal Regiment and of the 100th as may be now in the Lower Province to join their regiments without delay.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 10th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of Major-General Riall's official report on the subject of the landing of the enemy between Chippawa and Fort Erie on the 3d inst., and of the Major-General's attack upon their position on the 5th.

It is highly satisfactory to observe that the gallantry and steadiness of British soldiers throughout the conduct of every regiment engaged, and that the 2d Regiment of Lincoln Militia, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dickson, which composed part of the advance under Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, equally distinguished themselves, although their brave and vigorous efforts proved unavailing against the prodigious superiority in numbers which the enemy possessed, and which induced the Major-General to withdraw his small force to the position of Chippawa.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.
(Confidential.)

KINGSTON, July 10th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Your Excellency will receive by the same conveyance Major-General Riall's official report of his attack on the enemy in their position at Street's Creek.

The conduct of the troops and militia appears to have been highly creditable, and nothing but the exceedingly unequal numbers of the enemy could have prevented the attack from being covered with complete success.

Our artillery was well served, and a disabled brass twenty-four pounder, which had its limber blown up and the two shaft horses killed, was saved principally by the exertions of Major Lisle of the 19th Light Dragoons.

The enemy deployed into line, and withstood our attacks with the greatest steadiness.

They are now understood to be establishing batteries under cover of the wood in front of the position at Chippawa, from which Major-General Riall is apprehensive he will be under the necessity of retiring, as his force is so considerably diminished from the casualties of the action and from the fall of Fort Erie.

I regret extremely the loss of this place, which I had the strongest hopes would have made an excellent defence, or at all events held the enemy in check for several days. I felt the more confident in that expectation from Captain Marlowe's report of it on his return from that frontier.

Our Indian allies, as usual, proved of little service. There

were but few on the ground—about 200 under Norton and about 100 of the western tribes, and these penetrated too far into the woods to afford the assistance required of them.

I perceive the Major-General has omitted, in the haste of transmission I presume, the numbers he had on the ground. The Royals took into the field about 500, half of whom have been killed or disabled for the present: the 100th, about 460, have suffered in even a greater proportion, and have not now more than four duty officers remaining. The King's, I imagine to have been from the embarkation returns from York, about 400, has not experienced much loss. These, with the artillery, the 19th Dragoons and the Lincoln Militia, would constitute a force of about 1,500.

I beg, therefore, again to request that every absent officer of these corps be ordered to join forthwith, as well as Lieut.-Colonel Ogilvie of the King's Regiment, Colonel Young being on his way from York to Montreal, and there being consequently but one field officer with the regiment.

I have been happy to learn of the arrival at Queenston of the Incorporated Militia, under Captain Robinson of the King's Regiment. This is the only disposeable corps I had left to send. But as soon as the 89th, which leaves this place to-day under Lieut.-Colonel Morrison, arrives at York, I propose pushing forward the Glengarry Light Infantry to Burlington to support Major-General Riall, or, with the 103d Regiment, to sustain that post, and I have placed the two flank companies of the 104th, completed to 60 each, under Lieut.-Colonel Drummond, for the purpose of acting with the Indians in that direction also, as circumstances may require.

I fear we shall suffer much difficulty in feeding all this force, Mr. Couche having received a letter from Mr. Turquand this day, expressing his apprehensions of a failure in the article of flour, which it is totally impossible to assist them in from Kingston from the want of means of transport from hence; I have even been under the necessity of taking twelve batteaux from the brigades which arrived yesterday to forward the 89th Regiment to York.

I am happy to observe that Major-General Riall states there is a sufficiency of provisions in each of the forts for the supply of their garrisons until our fleet can take the lake again.

Major-General Riall has heard that the enemy are collecting a force at Detroit.

The Marquis of Tweeddale's wound is in the leg and severe; Lieut.-Colonel Gordon's in the chin and neck; Captain Holland's in the head and through the left hand: Captains Sleigh and Sherrard in three places each, the former supposed to be mortal.

The General himself was struck on the hip, but without further injury than to tear his coat.

Sir James Yeo has received a letter from a very intelligent officer of the navy, captured at Sandy Creek. He states that the enemy's new ship *Superior* is very low between decks, and carries 32 pounders, her ports very close. The new ship *Mohawk* is less by a port on each side than the *Prince Regent*. This officer had a good opportunity of viewing the works of defence at Sackett's Harbor, which he states to have been considerably strengthened, so much so as to require at least 7,000 men to ensure success against them.

General Order.

Adjutant-General's Office, Left Division,
July 2, 1814.

Major-General Brown has the satisfaction to announce to the troops of his division that he is authorized by the orders of his government to put them in motion against the enemy. The first and second brigades, with the corps of artillery, will cross the Straights before them this night, or as early to-morrow as possible. The necessary instructions have been given to the brigadiers, and by them to the commanding officers of regiments and corps.

Upon entering Canada the laws of war will govern. Men found in arms, or otherwise engaged in the service of the enemy, will be treated as enemies; those behaving peaceably and following their private occupations will be treated as friends. Private property in all cases will be held sacred. Public property, wherever found, will be seized and disposed of by the commanding general. Our utmost protection will be given to all who actually join or evince a desire to join us.

Plundering is prohibited. The Major-General does not apprehend any difficulty on this with the regular army, or with honorable volunteers who press to the standard of their country to avenge her wrongs and to gain a name in arms. Profligate men who follow the army for plunder must not expect that they will escape the vengeance of the gallant spirits who are struggling to exalt the national character. Any plunderer shall be punished with death who shall be found violating this law.

By order of the Major-General.

C. K. Gardner,
Adjutant-General.

(From Brannan's Official Letters, Washington, 1823.)

Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.

CHIPPAWA PLAINS, July 6th, 1814.

SIR,—Excuse my silence. I have been much engaged. Fort Erie did not, as I assured you it should not, detain me a single day. At 11 o'clock on the night of the 4th I arrived at this place with the reserve, General Scott having taken the position about noon with the van. My arrangements for turning and taking in near the enemy's position east of Chippawa was made, when Major-General Riall, suspecting our intention, and adhering to the rule that it is better to give than receive an attack, came from behind his works about five o'clock in the afternoon of the 5th in order of battle. We did not baulk him. Before six o'clock his line was broken and his forces defeated, leaving on the field four hundred killed and wounded. He was closely pressed, and would have been utterly ruined but for the proximity of his works, whither he fled for shelter. The wounded of the enemy and those of our own army must be attended. They will be removed to Buffalo. This, with very limited means of transport, will take a day or two, after which I shall advance, not doubting but that the gallant and accomplished troops I have will break down all opposition between me and Lake Ontario, when, if met by the fleet, all is well—if not, under the favor of heaven, we shall behave in a way to avoid disgrace. My detailed report shall be made in a day or two.

Major-General Jacob Brown to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, CHIPPAWA PLAINS, July 7th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the second inst. I issued my orders for crossing the Niagara River and made arrangements deemed necessary for securing the garrison of Fort Erie. On the 3d inst. that post surrendered, at 5 p. m. Our loss in this affair was four wounded. I have enclosed a return of the prisoners of the ordnance, and the ordnance stores captured.

To secure my rear I have placed a garrison in this fort and requested Captain Kennedy to station his vessels near the post.

On the morning of the 4th, Brig.-General Scott with his brigade and a corps of artillery was ordered to advance towards Chippawa and be governed by circumstances, taking care to secure a good military position for the night. After some skirmishing with the enemy, he selected this plain with the eye of a soldier—his right resting on the river and a ravine being in front. At 11 at night I joined him with the reserve under General Ripley, our field and battering train, and corps of artillery under Major

Hindman. General Porter arrived next morning with a part of the New York and Pennsylvania volunteers and some of the warriors of the Six Nations.

Early in the morning of the 5th, the enemy commenced a petty war upon our pickets, and as he was indulged his presumption increased; by noon he showed himself on the left of our exterior line, and attacked one of our pickets as it was returning to camp. Captain Treat, who commanded it, retired disgracefully, leaving a wounded man on the ground. Captain Biddle of the artillery, who was near the scene, impelled by feelings highly honorable to him as a soldier and officer, promptly assumed command of this picket, led it back to the wounded man, and brought him off the field. I ordered Capt. Treat on the spot to retire from the army, and as I am anxious that no officer shall remain under my command who can be suspected of cowardice, I advise that Captain Treat and Lieut. (name illegible), who was also with the picket, be struck from the rolls of the army.

At 4 o'clock p. m., agreeably to a plan I had given General Porter, he advanced from the rear of our camp with the volunteers and Indians (taking the woods in order to keep out of view of the enemy) with a hope of bringing his pickets and scouting parties between his (Porter's) line of march and our camp. As Porter moved I ordered the parties advanced in front of our camp to fall back gradually under the enemy's fire, to draw them, if possible, up to our line. About half-past four the advance of General Porter's command met the light parties of the enemy in the woods upon our extreme left—the enemy was driven, and Porter advancing near to Chippawa met their whole column in order of battle. From the cloud of dust rising and the heavy firing, I was led to conclude that the whole force of the enemy was in march and prepared for action. I immediately ordered General Scott to advance with his brigade and Towson's artillery and meet them upon the plain in front of our camp. The General did not expect to be gratified so soon with a field engagement. He advanced in the most prompt and officer-like style, and in a few minutes was in close action upon the plain with a superior force of British regular troops. By this time General Porter's command had given way and fled in every direction, notwithstanding his personal gallantry and great exertions to stay their flight. The retreat of the volunteers and Indians caused the left flank of General Scott's brigade to be greatly exposed. Captain Harris, with his dragoons, was directed to stop the fugitives behind the ravine fronting our camp, and I sent Colonel Gardner to order General Ripley to advance with the 21st Regiment, which formed a part of the reserve, pass to the left of

our camp, skirt the woods so as to keep out of view, and fall upon the rear of the enemy's right flank; this order was promptly obeyed and the greatest exertions were made by the 21st Regiment to gain their position, but in vain, for such was the zeal and gallantry of the line commanded by General Scott that its advance upon the enemy was not to be checked. Major Jessup, commanding the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front and in flank and his men falling fast around him, ordered his battalion to "support arms and advance." This order was promptly obeyed amidst the most deadly and destructive fire; he gained a more secure position and returned upon the enemy so galling a discharge as caused them to retire. By this time their whole line was falling back and our gallant soldiers pressing upon them as fast as possible. As soon as the enemy had gained the sloping ground descending towards Chippawa and distant a quarter of a mile, he broke and ran to gain his works; in this effort he was too successful, and the guns from his batteries opening immediately upon our line checked in some degree the pursuit. At this moment I resolved to bring up all my ordnance and force the place by a direct attack. Major Wood of the corps of engineers, and my aid, Captain Austin, rode to the bank of the creek towards the right of their line of works and examined them. I was induced by the lateness of their report, the lateness of the hour, and the advice of General Scott and Major Wood, to order the forces to retire to camp.

My most difficult duty remains. I am depressed with the fear of not being able to do justice to my companions in arms, and apprehensive that some who had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves and promptly embraced it will escape my notice.

Brig.-General Scott is entitled to the highest praises our country can bestow; to him more than any other man am I indebted for the victory of the 5th of July. His brigade has covered itself with glory. Every officer and every man of the 9th, 22d, 11th, and 25th Regiments did his duty with a zeal and energy worthy of the American character. When every officer stands so pre-eminently high in the path of duty and honor, it is impossible to discriminate, but I cannot deprive myself of the pleasure of saying that Major Leavenworth commanded the 9th and 22d; Major Jessup the 25th, and Major McNeil the 11th. Colonel Campbell was wounded early in the action, gallantly leading on his regiment.

The family of General Scott was conspicuous in the field: Lieut. Smith of the 6th Infantry, Major of Brigade, and Lieutenants Worth and Watts, his aids.

From General Ripley and his brigade I received every assistance that I gave them an opportunity of rendering. I did not

order any part of the reserve into action until General Porter's command had given way: and then General Scott's movements were so rapid and decisive that General Ripley could not get up in time with the 21st to the position as directed. The corps of artillery under Major Hindman were not generally in action; this was not their fault. Captain Towson's company was the only one that had a full opportunity of distinguishing itself; and it is believed that no company ever embraced an opportunity with more zeal or more success.

A detachment from the 2d Brigade, under the command of Lieut. McDonald, penetrated the woods with the Indians and volunteers, and for their support. The conduct of McDonald and his command reflects high honor upon the brigade to which they belong.

The conduct of General Porter has been conspicuously gallant. Every assistance in his power to afford with the description of force under his command has been rendered. We could not expect him to contend with the British column of regulars which appeared upon the plains of Chippawa. It was no cause of surprise to me to see his command retire before this column.

Justice forbids that I should omit to name my own family. They yield in honorable zeal, intelligence, and attention to duty. Colonel Gardner, Major Jones, and my aids, Captains Austin and Spencer, have been as active and as much devoted to the cause as any officers of the army. Their conduct merits my warmest acknowledgments. Of Gardner and Jones I shall have occasion again to speak to you. Major Camp, Deputy Quartermaster-General, deserves my particular notice and approbation. By his great exertions I was enabled to find the means of crossing. Captain Daliba, of the ordnance department, has rendered every service in his power.

The enclosed return will show you our loss and furnish you with the names of the dead and wounded officers. These gallant men must not be forgotten. Our country will remember them and do them justice.

In the above action the enemy had 208 killed, and 95 wounded —15 prisoners. Those reported under the head of wounded and prisoners were so severely injured that it would have been impracticable for them to have escaped. The enemy had the same facilities of carrying their wounded from the field at the commencement of the action as ourselves, and there can be no doubt from the information that I have received from unquestionable sources that

they carried from the field as many of their wounded as is reported above in the total.

AZ. ORNE,
Asst. Ins.-Gen.

Inspector-General's Office, Headquarters, Left Division,
CAMP NEAR FORT ERIE, July 3d, 1814.

Return of the British prisoners of war who surrendered by capitulation with Fort Erie on the afternoon of the 3d July, 1814, to the left division of the United States army under the command of Major General Brown.

8th or King's Regiment—one major.

Royal Artillery—1 lieutenant, 1 corporal; 1 bombardier and 19 gunners.

100th Regiment—1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 4 sergeants, 5 corporals, three musicians, 98 privates.

Aggregate, 137.

AZ. ORNE,
Asst. Inspector-General.

Inspector-General's Office, Headquarters, Left Division,
CHIPPAWA, July 9th, 1814.

Return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners of the enemy in the action fought on the plains within half a mile of Chippawa, between the left division of the United States army, commanded by Major-General Brown, and the English forces, under the command of Major-General Riall.

Killed—three captains, three subalterns, and 87 rank and file of the regular troops.

Wounded—two captains of the 1st Royal Scots, one lieutenant of the 100th Regiment, and 72 rank and file of the Royal Scots, 8th and 100th Regiments.

Prisoners—one captain of the Indians, and nine rank and file of the regulars.

Killed in the woods—of the Indians, 87; of the regulars and militia, 18.

Indian prisoners—one chief and four privates.

Total of the enemy placed *hors du combat*, that we have ascertained beyond doubt—6 captains, 4 subalterns, and 298 rank and file.

AZ. ORNE,
Asst. Inspector-General.

Report of the killed and wounded of the left division commanded by Major-General Brown, in the action of the 5th July, 1814, on the plains of Chippawa, Upper Canada:

Artillery—killed: 4 privates; wounded—severely: 3 corporals, 5 privates; slightly: 8 privates.

General Scott's Brigade:

9th Infantry—killed: 2 musicians, 11 privates; wounded—severely: 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 2 corporals, 19 privates; slightly: 2 sergeants, 18 privates.

22d Infantry, attached—killed: 8 privates; wounded—severely: 1 captain, 8 privates; slightly: 2 sergeants, 35 privates.

25th Infantry—killed: 1 sergeant, 4 privates; wounded—severely: 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 5 sergeants, 2 corporals, 37 privates; slightly: 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 19 privates.

11th Infantry—killed: 1 sergeant, 4 corporals, 10 privates; wounded—severely: 1 colonel, 1 subaltern, 3 sergeants, 5 corporals, 28 privates; slightly: 3 sergeants, 19 privates.

General Ripley's Brigade:

21st Regiment—none.

19th Infantry, attached—killed: 3 privates; wounded severely: 2 privates; missing: 2 privates.

23d Infantry—wounded severely—1 private.

General P. B. Porter's Command:

Fenton's Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia—killed: 3 privates; wounded—severely: 1 private; slightly: 1 private; missing: 3 officers, 4 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Corps of Indians—killed: 9 privates; wounded—severely: 4; missing: 10.

Grand total—2 sergeants, 4 corporals, 2 musicians, 52 privates, killed; 1 colonel, 3 captains, 5 subalterns, 8 sergeants, 12 corporals, 105 privates, severely wounded; 9 sergeants, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 103 privates, slightly wounded; 3 officers, 16 non-commissioned officers and privates, missing. Aggregate, 328.

Names and rank of officers wounded—Colonel Campbell, 11th Infantry, severely; Captain King, 22d Infantry, dangerously; Captain Read, 25th Infantry, badly; Captain Harrison, 42d, doing duty in 9th Infantry, severely; Lieut. Barron, 11th Infantry, severely; Lieut. DeWitt, 25th Infantry, severely; Lieut. Patchin, 25th Infantry, badly; Lieut. Brimhall, 9th Infantry, slightly.

Note—The slightly wounded are fast recovering.

C. K. GARDNER,
Adjt.-General.

Major Hindman to the Adjutant-General.

Agreeably to general orders, I transmit the following report:

At the commencement of the action of the 5th July, Capt. Towson's company of artillery with the first brigade was solely engaged with the enemy; he maintained his position on the right and kept up a spirited and destructive fire during the charge of the enemy. Amidst the fire and charge of the enemy the captain and his subalterns, Lieuts. Campbell and Schmuck, and Lieut. Randolph of the infantry, commanding the reserve of the artillery, behaved with the greatest gallantry, and I am proud to say tended greatly to check the impetuosity of the enemy.

At an early part of the battle the captain's piece was thrown out of action by a 24-pound shot of the enemy, yet his zeal and exertions were given with his characteristic spirit to the remaining pieces, and he reports handsomely of the conduct and services of his officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

About the time the enemy commenced their charge, and at the moment they broke, Captain Ritchie's company of artillery and one piece, (a 12-pounder,) of Captain Biddle's company of artillery, under Lieut. Hall, participated in the action. The captains, officers, non-commissioned officers and men, conducted themselves as brave and faithful soldiers, and the whole artillery then on the field pursued under the fire of the enemy's batteries with rapidity, and saw them precipitate themselves within their works. At this period of the action two 18-pounders under Captain Williams, and the remainder of Captain Biddle's artillery, were brought upon the ground without being permitted to open a battery upon the enemy's works.

To particularize, if all had been engaged from first to last, would have been invidious, but in this case Captain Towson and company deserve particular mention. The captain, being so fortunate as to be ordered in advance with his company of artillery, only, had an opportunity of showing his gallantry and distinguishing himself, officers and soldiers, above all others.

With due respect, yours, etc.,

J. Hindman,
Major Commanding Battalion of Artillery.

Brig.-General Winfield Scott to the Adjutant-General.

Queenston, U. C., July 15, 1814.

Sir,—By the general order of the 13th inst., a methodical and detailed report is called for, designating the names of such persons,

whether commissioned or not, who in the action of the 5th contributed in a particular manner to the successful result of that day.

I am not asked for an account of the disposition made of the troops under my command during the action. I shall, therefore confine myself strictly to the general order.

A severe action has been fought and a signal victory gained. The general order of the 6th inst. attributes that victory to the 1st brigade of infantry and Captain Towson's company of artillery, under my command. It was believed at the time, and has since been clearly ascertained, that, of the forces engaged, the enemy were greatly superior in numbers. Under such circumstances victory could not have been obtained without a very general participation of all ranks and grades in the event.

The truth of this observation was most conspicuous in the very crisis of the action. Conduct universally good leaves but little room for discrimination. Accordingly, but few names are reported to me by the several commandants of battalions as entitled to select mention (in respect to their gallant comrades) and those cases are noticed principally from accidental circumstances of good or bad fortune, as in the instance of Captain Ketchum of the 25th Infantry, whose good fortune it was to be detached with his company, by order of Major Jessup, to attack a much superior force whilst the battalion was engaged with another body of the enemy. Captain Ketchum gallantly sustained himself in the execution of his orders till the battalion had cleared its own front in order to march to his support.

The good conduct of Captain Harrison, commanded by Major Leavenworth and observed by myself, was of another kind. A cannon ball shattered and carried away part of his leg. The captain preserved a perfect serenity under the tortures of his wound, and utterly refused any assistance till the enemy should be beaten. So glorious a display of fortitude had the happiest effect.

Of the three battalions of infantry composing the First Brigade, the first consisted of the 9th and a detachment of the 22d, under command of Major Leavenworth. The 2d Battalion, or the 11th Regiment, was gallantly conducted towards its place in order of battle by Colonel Campbell, who, being early wounded, was succeeded by Major McNeil. Major Jessup commanded the 25th Regiment, or the remaining battalion of the brigade. Of these three excellent officers it would be difficult to say which was the most meritorious or most conspicuously engaged. The 25th Regiment, having been detached to my left to turn the enemy's right wing, was rested in a wood. Major Jessup was less under my personal observation than the other two commanders, but I have

every evidence of the able disposition he made of his corps, as well by the report of my aids as by the effect he produced on that part of the enemy's line immediately opposed to him and which contributed much to the general result of the day. Major Jessup had his horse shot under him.

The other two battalions, with an enlarged interval between them, received the enemy in open plain, that under Major Leavenworth parallel to the attack, that under Major McNeil with its left wing thrown forward to take the enemy in front and flank at the same time. Captain Towson, who commenced the fire before the troops were in order of battle, immediately afterwards advanced to the front of the extreme right with three pieces of artillery, and took post on the river. Majors Leavenworth and McNeil made prompt dispositions to receive the charge. The fire of these corps (including the artillery) produced a prodigious effect on the enemy's ranks. That of Major McNeil's was most effective from the oblique position which his corps judiciously occupied. The enemy's batteries were also admirably served, to the fire of which all the corps were exposed, that of Major Leavenworth in particular. This cannonade, however, did not prevent the latter from preserving his corps in the most excellent order, at all times prepared to advance or to fire, to give or to receive the charge.

Captain Towson finally silenced the enemy's most effective battery by blowing up an ammunition wagon, which produced great confusion. Turning next a heavy discharge of canister on the enemy's infantry, now nearly in contact with our line advancing to the charge, the enemy could not long withstand this accumulation of fire; he broke and fled to his strong works behind Chippawa. All the corps pursued with promptitude.

To mention them in order of their rank, (I know of no other in this case,) Majors Jessup, Leavenworth and McNeil, and Captain Towson, deserve, in my humble opinion, every thing which conspicuous skill and gallantry can wish from a grateful country.

I cannot close this account of meritorious conduct without mentioning the great services rendered me by those two gallant young soldiers, Lieuts. Worth and Watts, my aids.

There was no danger they did not cheerfully encounter in communicating my orders, and by their zeal and intrepidity won the admiration of the whole brigade. They both rendered essential service at critical moments by assisting the commandants of corps in forming the troops under circumstances which prevented the voice from being heard.

This conduct has been handsomely acknowledged by the

officers of the line, who have joined in requesting that it might be particularly noticed.

My brigade-major, Lieut. Smith, rendered me every assistance that his accidental situation on foot permitted. He is entitled to my thanks.

During the action Major Wood of the engineers, and Captain Harris of the dragoons, whose troop could not act, came up and very handsomely tendered their services. The latter had his horse shot under him.

It is proper I should take this opportunity to mention the case of Captain Crooker of the 9th Regiment of Infantry, in the affair of the 4th of July, on the same ground on which the action of the 5th was fought. I have already had the honor to mention this case verbally to the Commanding-General.

It is due to the gallant individual particularly concerned that his conduct should be formally noticed.

My brigade constituted the advance of the army. In descending the left bank of the Niagara from Fort Erie we met an advanced corps of the enemy at Black Creek, strongly posted behind that stream. Capt. Towson, who was with the advance, obliged the enemy to fall back, who, on retreating, took up the bridge over the creek. Captain Crooker, who flanked out to the left of our march, crossed the stream some distance above the bridge, and was pursuing the enemy just as the head of the brigade column arrived at the bridge, which could not be passed until the pioneers had replaced the boards, which the enemy had hastily removed.

While this operation was going on Captain Crooker immediately, within my view, was suddenly enveloped by a troop of the 19th Light Dragoons, composing a part of the enemy's rear guard. He fought his way to a house then near him, turned upon the dragoons, and put them to flight.

Captains Hull and Harrison and Lieut. Randolph with a small party were at the same time marching to the support of Captain Crooker, and arrived just as the enemy took to flight. I have witnessed nothing more gallant in partizan war than was the conduct of Captain Crooker and his company.

From Niles' Register, Vol. 6, Page 306.

(From the Ontario Messenger.)

We have received the following account and plan of attack of the battle of Chippawa from a valued and obliging correspondent at the west, who was an eye witness to the engagement.

On the 3d of July, General Scott, by orders from Major-

General Brown, broke up his encampment and advanced upon Chippawa, and with Capt. Towson's division of artillery, drove the enemy's pickets across the bridge. In the afternoon General Ripley, with the field and park artillery under Major Hindman, took the same route and encamped on the ground with General's Scott's advance.

On the morning of the 4th of July the British Indians, who had filled the woods contiguous to the American encampment, commenced firing at our pickets. Reconnoitering parties from Chippawa were frequently observed during the day along the river road, and information was received that reinforcements had arrived.

On the 5th the same course was pursued. The Indians were discovered almost in rear of our camp. At this moment General Porter arrived with his volunteers and Indians. General Brown immediately ordered them to enter the woods and effectually scour them. Generals Brown, Scott and Ripley were at the White House (marked O) reconnoitering. General Porter's corps seemed sweeping like a torrent everything before them, until they almost debouched from the woods opposite Chippawa. In a moment a volley of musketry convinced General Brown that the whole British force had crossed the Chippawa bridge and that the action must become general. He gave immediate orders to General Scott to advance and feel the enemy, and to General Ripley to be in readiness to support. In a few minutes the British line was discovered formed and rapidly advancing—their right (the Royal Scots) upon the woods and the left (the Prince Regent's) near the river, with the King's Own in reserve. Their object was to gain the bridge across the creek in front of our encampment, which if done would have compelled us to retire. General Brown feared a flank movement through the woods on the left of our camp with a view to seize our reserve of artillery, and directed General Ripley not to advance until he gave him orders. At the same time he rode to the first line with his staff and an escort of about 30 dragoons, in order to direct the whole movements of the field and animate the troops by his presence. Meanwhile General Scott, under a most tremendous fire of the enemy's artillery, crossed the bridge, which the enemy had endeavored to gain, and formed his line. The enemy's orders were to give one volley at a distance and immediately charge. But such was the warmth of our musketry that they could not stand it. At this moment General Brown sent orders to General Ripley to make a movement through the woods upon the enemy's right flank. With the 21st Regiment he passed a ravine in his front, where the men had to wade up to their chins, and advanced as rapidly as possible. But before he commenced filing from the

woods into the open land under the enemy's batteries they had been completely broken by the cool bravery and discipline of General Scott's brigade.

(From Boston Sentinel, 1814.)

Extract from a letter from a captain in Fenton's Regiment of Pennsylvanian Volunteers, dated at Chippawa, July 7, 1814:

"On the afternoon of the 4th inst., Fenton's detachment was ordered to cross the river, which we did with eight companies, leaving two companies at Buffalo. We arrived at Chippawa and had one hour's rest, when General Porter called for 100 men to go scouting with the Indians to drive the British Indians out of the woods, where they were harassing our outposts. We turned out 150, and, accompanied by 336 Indians, advanced half a mile, when we were fired on by their Indians, but we drove them three-quarters of a mile, when we were compelled to retreat by the British regulars and Indians. We rallied and drove them back when they came out of their hiding place, but we were outflanked and again forced to retreat. I had two men missing from my company. We went out yesterday afternoon to bring in the dead who had not been found by the regulars in the morning, and found one of my men dead. We found a great number. Every company among us lost two or three."

Extract from a letter from Captain Mackonochie, R. A., to Major-General Glasgow, dated Montreal, August 19, 1814:

"Two artillerymen, deserters from the enemy, stated to Major Glegg that they had lost at one gun alone (in the battle of Chippawa) seventeen men, and they were no sooner replaced than they were swept away by our shot and grape. The two 24 pounders and the 5½ inch. howitzer were never further than 400 yards from the enemy, and at times much nearer; the 6 pounder never further than 500 yards.

(From the Baltimore Federal Gazette, July 25, 1814.)

Extract from a letter written by an officer in the United States army to a friend in this city, dated Chippawa, July 7:

"We pursued them three miles, and drove them into Fort Chippawa. Just as we arrived in sight of this place my piece, a twelve pounder, being the largest on the ground, was dismounted, Towson's men being exhausted by a constant fire of six or seven hours. He had fired 120 rounds from two sixes, besides shells and canister from his howitzer. I did not get into action until the

British line was formed. The numbers engaged were about equal. The British artillery fired very well, but were exceeded by Towson, who bore the brunt of the battle.

General Order.

Adjutant-General's Office, Headquarters,
Montreal, 13th July, 1814.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces has received from Lieutenant-General Drummond the official report of Major-General Riall of the sortie which took place on the 5th inst. from the lines of Chippawa.

His Excellency derives a proud consolation in the undaunted gallantry and exemplary discipline displayed in this unequal contest, in which Major-General Riall represents Lieut.-Col. Pearson in command of a detachment of light troops, Lieut.-Col. the Marquis Tweeddale, 100th Regiment; Major Evans, 8th or King's Regiment; Major Lisle, 19th Light Dragoons, and Capt. Mackonochie, Royal Artillery, to have afforded the most able support in zealous and judicious command of their respective corps, and that the zeal and intelligence evinced by his aide-de-camp, Capt. Holland, Capt. Elliot, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, Lieut. Fox, Royal Scots, Acting-Brigade-Major, and Staff-Adjutant Greig, merited his approbation, and that the conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Dickson, Lincoln Militia, was most exemplary.

His Excellency laments the loss of so many valuable officers and men, but this sentiment is greatly aggravated by the disappointment and mortification he has experienced in learning that Fort Erie, entrusted to the charge of Major Buck, was surrendered on the evening of the third instant, by capitulation, without having made an adequate defence.

Return of killed, wounded and missing :—

Royal Artillery—1 gunner killed, 4 gunners wounded.

Royal Artillery Drivers—1 subaltern wounded.

1st or Royal Scots—1 captain, 4 sergeants, 43 rank and file killed; 1 field officer, 2 captains, 7 subalterns, 4 sergeants, 121 rank and file wounded; 30 rank and file missing.

8th or King's Regiment—3 rank and file killed; 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, and 22 rank and file wounded.

100th Regiment—2 subalterns, 3 sergeants, 64 rank and file killed; 1 field officer, 2 captains, 6 subalterns, 11 sergeants, 114 rank and file wounded; 1 subaltern missing.

Militia—2 captains, 1 subaltern, 9 rank and file killed; 1 field

officer, 3 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 11 rank and file wounded; 1 sergeant and 14 rank and file missing.

19th Light Dragoons—1 sergeant and 5 rank and file wounded.

Weekly Distribution Return of the Right Division, Major-General Riall.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, July 8th, 1814.

Fort Niagara, Lieut.-Colonel Tucker, 41st Regt.:

Staff—21 officers.

Royal Marine Artillery—four officers, five sergeants, one drummer, 62 rank and file.

41st Regiment—25 officers, 29 sergeants, 18 drummers, 466 rank and file.

100th Regiment—one sergeant, twelve rank and file.

Fort George, Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, Royal Scots:

Fort Missassauga, Major Evans, 8th Regiment:

19th Light Dragoons—three officers, six sergeants, one bugler, 64 rank and file—four sick.

Provincial Light Dragoons—two officers, three sergeants, 15 rank and file.

Royal Engineers—two officers.

Sappers and Miners—six rank and file.

Royal Artillery—eight officers, three sergeants, three buglers, 162 rank and file—two sick.

Incorporated Militia Artillery—one officer, two sergeants, ten rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—one officer, three sergeants, one bugler, 28 rank and file—one sick.

1st Royal Scots—29 officers, 53 sergeants, 22 drummers, 726 rank and file—153 sick and wounded.

8th Regiment—27 officers, 35 sergeants, 10 drummers, 515 rank and file—11 sick and wounded.

100th Regiment—5 officers, 15 sergeants, 17 drummers, 261 rank and file—121 sick and wounded.

Incorporated Militia—33 officers, 27 sergeants, 10 drummers, 309 rank and file.

Colored Corps—one officer, two sergeants, one drummer, 22 rank and file—four sick.

Long Point and Dependencies, Lieut.-Colonel Parry, 103d Regt.:

19th Dragoons—three officers, four sergeants, one bugler, 56 rank and file—one sick.

Provincial Dragoons—one officer, 13 rank and file.

103d Regiment—12 officers, 11 sergeants, two drummers, 173 rank and file—five sick.

Burlington, Colonel H. Scott, 103d Regiment:

Provincial Dragoons—three rank and file.

Royal Artillery—one officer, three rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—one officer, one sergeant, 15 rank and file.

103d Regiment—24 officers, 37 sergeants, 23 drummers, 598 rank and file—27 sick.

York, Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, Glengarry Light Infantry:

Royal Artillery—one officer, one sergeant, ten rank and file.

Royal Artillery Drivers—one officer, one sergeant, nine rank and file.

Royal and Provincial Engineers—one officer, one sergeant, 15 rank and file.

1st Royal Scots—one officer, one sergeant, two rank and file—seven sick.

8th Regiment—two officers, six sergeants, two drummers, 70 rank and file—49 sick.

41st Regiment—two officers, two sergeants, four rank and file—14 sick.

89th Regiment—one sergeant, two rank and file—one sick.

103d Regiment—two rank and file.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—one officer, one private—one sick.

Glengarry Light Infantry—18 officers, 30 sergeants, 15 drummers, 346 rank and file—35 sick.

Incorporated Militia—one officer, one sergeant, 17 rank and file—12 sick.

Embodied Militia—seven officers, six sergeants, one drummer, five rank and file—six sick.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Lord Bathurst.

(Extract.)

KINGSTON, July 10th, 1814.

A considerable party of this description (disaffected residents) had been formed and organized in the District of London, who, it appears, had placed themselves under a notorious partizan leader of the enemy, who had frequently before made incursions into the unprotected parts of the country, committing depredations on private property and carrying off the loyal inhabitants. Nor was this party less active in these respects than him under whose directions they proposed to act. Their principal object, it appears, was to

disorganize the militia by making prisoners of, and delivering up to the enemy, every militia officer upon whom they could lay hands, and which they to some extent effected. They acted chiefly in the District of London, of which the greater part of them were inhabitants.

Alarmed at their depredations, a small band of the loyal and well disposed of the militia volunteered under one of their officers to march and attack them at their place of rendezvous, with a determination to capture or destroy them, in which they fortunately succeeded, after a sharp resistance from a number far exceeding their own.

A special commission was formed for their trial but did not open till the 23d day of May, and continued its sitting until the 21st of June, when it adjourned till the 10th of August. Seventeen were brought to trial out of upwards of seventy in those three districts, (Western, London, and Niagara,) the greater part being in the London district; fifteen were convicted and sentenced to be executed on the 20th of July. Three judges of the King's Bench formed the commission and presided in turns, two being always present. I have selected seven of the condemned men as the least guilty, whom I have reprieved until His Majesty's pleasure is known.

Opinion of the Acting-Attorney-General, Mr. Robinson, enclosed, dated 18th June, 1814:

Aaron Stevens, Dayton Lindsay, Benjamin Simmonds, George Peacock, Jr., Adam Crysler, Isaiah Brink and John Durham are the most guilty. John Johnson is an ignorant man. He behaved with great humanity towards prisoners, and expresses his regret. Samuel and Stephen Hartwell returned to their native country at once when war was commenced and avowed their hostility. They were taken prisoners by General Brock and paroled at Detroit. He advises that in natural justice they should be reprieved and banished.

Remarks of Chief Justice Scott:

Fourteen were convicted, one pleaded guilty. The two Hartwells should be pardoned. Cornelius Hovey, who pleaded guilty, is so sick that he may not live to abide the sentence of the law—this probably was the cause of the plea.

Reprieved—Samuel and Stephen Hartwell, Isaac Petit, Jacob Overholser, Garret Neil, John Johnson, Cornelius Hovey.

To be Executed—Aaron Stevens, Benjamin Simmonds, Noah Hopkins, Dayton Lindsay, George Peacock, Isaiah Brink, Adam Crysler, John Durham.

General Riall to General Drummond.

FORT GEORGE, July 8th, 1814.

SIR,—I much regret to have to report to you that I have been obliged to retire this afternoon from Chippawa to this place, the enemy having cut a road through the wood from Street's house to where Lyon's Creek falls into the Chippawa and brought along it 7 guns covered by the whole of their riflemen and Indians, under the fire of which they bridged the river. This operation was attempted to be opposed by the flankers of the Royal Scots and three field pieces, under Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, but it was found impossible.

The right of my position being thus turned, it was no longer tenable, and as at this moment a report was brought that another division of the enemy were passing the river four miles higher up, which would enable them to get into my rear by Lundy's Lane, I felt the necessity of retiring from it.

My force, having been considerably diminished by the loss it sustained on the 5th, and by the total defection of the militia and Indians, I thought it more advisable to fall back at once on Forts George and Missassauga than to hazard another action with so superior a force without the support of light troops.

General Riall to General Drummond.

FORT GEORGE, July 9th, 1814.

SIR,—I wrote you last night by express to inform you that the enemy had passed the Chippawa about a mile and a-half above the village, and obliged me to retire from that position. I understand his advance is this morning at St. Davids; an officer of the Provincial Dragoons, who was there to watch them, having been fired at by some dragoons. Our wounded have just gone off to York in the schooners. My whole force is retired here, without having left anything to fall into the hands of the enemy.

General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 11th, 1814.

SIR,—I have just received a communication from Major-General Riall of the 7th instant, in the afternoon, observing upon the omission, in his public despatch of the same day, of the number of men engaged under his command at Street's Creek, which he should have inserted (as I imagined) at fifteen hundred.

The Major-General also states that previous to his attack upon the enemy's position he had, with Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, recon-

noitred them at an early hour in the day with much precision, when, from the extent of ground their encampment occupied, and other observations, and from the information of militia men of good character and intelligence, and from Indians who got close to them and climbed trees to overlook their position, he was induced to believe that their force did not exceed 2,000 men, and as the Major-General had not heard at that time of the fall of Fort Erie, he concluded that there must have been a strong force occupied in its investment. These observations proved perfectly just, for the enemy was joined but a few hours afterwards by that strong force from above.

Colonel Scott, commanding at Burlington, has directed Lieut.-Colonel Parry to fall back to the Grand River from Long Point. By this means the communication between these two officers may be preserved, or Lieut.-Colonel Parry can retire still further upon Burlington if occasion should require.

I have received likewise a letter from Major-General Riall, of the 8th instant. Nothing of moment has occurred since the attack on the 5th. The enemy still occupied the same position, and on the 7th received a reinforcement of 400 men. Their loss in the action of the 5th appears to have been, from good authority, very severe. They suffered much from the fire of our artillery. Brigadier-General Scott is among the wounded, being shot through the foot. Not a single Indian remained with the Major-General at Chippawa.

I have the honor to transmit the copy of information received from a person sent from hence to Sackett's Harbour on the morning of the 8th inst.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have received information from a source to be depended on that the plan of the enemy is to wait the result of their army's proceedings on the Niagara, in the expectation that General Riall will be driven back by degrees, when their fleet is to leave Sackett's Harbor with a strong force on board, which is to be landed at the Forty or Fifty Mile Creek in General Riall's rear and thus get possession of the provisions and stores at Burlington. This information left Sackett's Harbor on the 2d inst.

General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 11th, 1814.
Half past 6 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a despatch this minute received from Major-General Riall, stating that the enemy had crossed the Chippawa about a mile and a half from its mouth,

whereby the Major-General was under the necessity of retiring from that position.

I trust Your Excellency will see the pressing necessity of expediting the intended reinforcements for this place, which I cannot avoid expressing my anxiety about, from its present very defenceless state in consequence of the reduced numbers of the garrison, as it is impossible to say what may be the intentions of the enemy on leaving Sackett's Harbor, when they will probably be accompanied by a considerable land force. It is natural to suppose that they obtain as good information of our force here as we do of theirs at Sackett's Harbor.

General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 13th, 1814.

SIR,—Major-General Riall's official despatch of the 8th inst. has just now reached me. By the enclosed copy Your Excellency will perceive that the enemy having crossed the Chippawa in two places above the village the Major-General thought proper to retire upon Fort George and Missassauga.

The flank companies of the Royal Scots, with three field pieces, attempted to oppose them in their passage to the river, but, covered as their advance was by seven guns, it was found impossible to prevent them.

The enemy have established themselves at Queenston, where they have placed guns on Mr. Hamilton's house and commenced fortifying the heights, as appears by a further communication from the Major-General of the 10th inst., wherein he also represents that every exertion is making to resist any attack which may be made upon Fort George or Missassauga, although he considers the former in so defective a state of defence as to be incapable of holding out for any length of time should it be seriously bombarded.

With the superior force of the enemy, covered as it is by numerous light troops and Indians, the Major-General feels it at present impossible, especially as he is now deprived of both these means, to give much effective interruption in their operations without reinforcements.

Lieut.-Colonel Pearson had just returned before Major-General Riall's letter was sent, from reconnoitering the enemy's position at Queenston. They had not any advanced party at a distance of a mile from that place.

Arrangements for Collecting a Force at Burlington.

(Secret.)

The Glengarry Light Infantry to be pushed on to Burlington without waiting for the arrival of the 89th Regiment, leaving all non-effectives at York.

The 89th to push on in like manner, leaving the two boy-companies and all non-effectives and incumbrances at York, Lieut.-Colonel Morrison to take with him two brass field-pieces under Lieut. Armstrong from York.

One wing of the Regiment DeWatteville to be pushed on to Burlington immediately, the other to be in readiness to follow on the arrival at or near Kingston of the head of the 6th or 82d Regiment.

Five companies of the Canadian Regiment to proceed to Kingston without waiting for the 104th going down.

The latter regiment (104th) to remain at Kingston until further orders.

If found necessary, Commodore Sir James Yeo must be applied to to land 200 of the Marine Battalion for the garrison of Point Frederick until the arrival of the 82d.

Lieut.-General Drummond intends proceeding to the head of the lake in a few days to assume command of the troops assembling there.

The following officers of the staff will accompany him, viz:

The officers of his personal staff, including the adjutant-general of militia, and his assistant, deputy-quartermaster-general and one assistant, Capt. Powell, Major Philott, commanding artillery, the quartermaster-general of militia.

J. Harvey, D. A. G.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

(Private.)

Kingston, July 13th, 1814.

Dear Sir,—The official despatch of Major-General Riall sent by this express was forwarded to York by water, which in consequence of tempestuous weather caused the delay in the receipt of it here.

The Major-General is strongly inclined to think that the intentions of the enemy are shortly to invest the forts upon which he has retired. Fort George is not capable of much resistance, yet he assures me that every possible exertion shall be made to place it in the best state of defence that time and means will permit.

The Indians, he says, have behaved most shamefully, literally

speaking, not one remaining of the hundreds that were with him prior to the retreat.

Such of the militia as are disposed to keep the field, the Major-General has ordered to rendezvous at Burlington.

Several officers and 120 wounded men have arrived at York in the schooners.

From the report of a deserter, it appears that the enemy lost about 500 men in the action of the 5th; this number they could well afford, but to us it was the loss of one-third of our men.

The Royals and 100th Regiments are in the greatest want for officers. The latter has but one captain and three subalterns doing duty and about 250 effective men.

Major-General Riall calls upon me strongly for, and indeed expects, reinforcements, but Your Excellency must be aware that I have not a man to send him, and that those expected from the Lower Province cannot be calculated at arriving higher than Cornwall before the latter end of this week. I have, however, ordered the Glengarry Light Infantry to proceed to Burlington, and the 89th on its arrival at York, leaving there its boy companies, to follow on the same route. I have likewise made some further arrangements, which shall be communicated to Colonel Baynes by the deputy-adjutant-general for Your Excellency's information, and as the troops cannot be forwarded without provisions, I have requested Sir James Yeo to send his two brigs immediately, with as much flour and pork as they can carry, to York and Burlington.

As soon as the five companies of Canadian Fencibles arrive here I propose proceeding to Burlington myself, and with the force I shall collect there to form a junction with Major-General Riall.

York, in the meantime, will be protected by such of the 89th and Glengarry Light Infantry as are unfit for more active service, by a body of militia, and perhaps by the crew of the *Star* brig.

Mr. Turquand to Major David Secord.

You are hereby authorized to take under your charge a party of militia for the purpose of collecting all the cattle you can procure in the country, for which you will receive a fair price, according to estimation on their being delivered over to the person employed in the Commissariat Department appointed to receive the cattle, at Fort George or its vicinity.

Chippawa, 8th July, 1814.

PETER TURQUAND,
Dy. Comm'y Gen'l.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 15th, 1814.

SIR,—Since my letter to Your Excellency of the 13th inst., I have not received any communication from Major-General Riall.

I have received letters from Colonel Scott at Burlington stating his intention of moving to the Forty Mile Creek, his force at present being the 103d Regiment, a detachment of the 19th Dragoons, about 1,000 militia and some Indians, but whose number he could scarcely ascertain. I have disapproved of this movement and directed him to return and retain his post at Burlington, as well as to dismiss all the too young, elderly, and inactive men of the militia, as I consider he is much better without such description of men, and to keep only those of healthy and serviceable appearance, as well from this reason as that it would be impossible to provision such numbers.

Major-General Conran shall be pushed on to Burlington without delay on his arrival here.

The 89th Regiment is, I trust, well on its way to York from the Carrying Place, from whence it proceeds by land.

This day has been so boisterous from the westward as to prevent the right wing of De Watteville's Regiment from leaving this by water. It will proceed by land to-morrow morning; the left wing on the arrival of the 82d Regiment.

Three companies of the Canadian Regiment arrived here this morning.

Although I should have wished it, I am apprehensive that I shall not have it in my power to forward any further reinforcements to the right division, from the inability of the commissariat to supply provisions, and in fact dread their failing in due supplies to those already ordered there.

I acquainted Your Excellency in my private letter of the 13th inst. that I had been under the necessity of calling on Commodore Sir James Yeo to send up his two brigs, the *Star* and *Charwell*, with flour and pork. One sailed yesterday, the other is now taking in her cargo and will be ready to proceed this night if the wind, at present foul, permits, and if the enemy's fleet does not prove to have taken the lake.

Four of their vessels were telegraphed as being off Pidgeon Islands.

I propose leaving this place on Sunday morning for Burlington.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, July 16th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit a despatch from Major-General Riall of the 12th inst., covering a copy of the opinion of the officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers upon the state of the defences and means of resistance of the three forts at the mouth of the River Niagara.

I approve of the Major-General's retiring to Burlington. But I am of opinion that he cannot make any serious impression upon the enemy with the force he at present has, as little reliance can be placed on the numbers of the militia, and still less on the Indians. I trust, however, that when the reinforcement of the De Watteville's Regiment shall have got up to his succour that something may be done worthy of observation.

I wish it were in my power still further to increase the numbers of the right division, either by forwarding the 6th or 82d Regiment to the frontier, but I feel afraid the commissariat could not supply them. So much alarmed am I even with the present numbers that I have directed all the women and children of the troops to be sent down from Niagara, Burlington and York, and the families of the Indians to be placed on half allowance.

The *Charwell* brig sailed from here yesterday evening for the head of the lake with provisions and some ammunition. I am in very strong hopes she will arrive safe at her destination, for Mr. McKenzie, an intelligent master of the squadron, has returned this morning from reconnoitering the enemy in Sackett's Harbor, where their whole squadron was lying with all their sails bent and apparently ready for sea, but the *Mohawk*, on board of which from her foremast forward no guns could be perceived, and as she appeared to be very much by the stern it is imagined she cannot be completely armed yet.

I have urged Dy.-Commissary-General Couche to forward supplies to the head of the lake so much that it will be necessary to push on the next brigades of batteaux which arrive from below. This may answer for the present, but with the decided naval superiority of the enemy it will be a most extraordinary circumstance if they will permit our communication by water to proceed unmolested.

I am concerned to observe that none of the engineer officers (so much wanted in this province) have as yet made their appearance.

I hope to be at Burlington in the course of a few days.

Major-General Riall to General Drummond.

FORT GEORGE, July 12, 1814.

SIR,—The enemy still occupy the same position and I imagine are waiting for the arrival of their fleet to furnish them with heavy ordnance for their operations against our forts. I have required the opinion of the officers of artillery and engineers upon the state of their defence. If their opinion be correct the fall of these places is inevitable if vigorously attacked, unless the besiegers are interrupted in their operations or a diversion made to draw their attention elsewhere. Having left in Forts George, Missassauga and Niagara such garrisons as the officers of engineers shall consider necessary, I shall move from this towards Burlington with between 800 and 900 men. I have directed Colonel Scott to meet me with the 103d, the militia collected at Burlington, of whom I understand there are a considerable body, and the whole of the Indians that can be assembled and will get into the enemy's rear by the Short Hills and Lundy's Lane. I have also directed Lieut.-Colonel Battersby to move from York with the Glengarry Light Infantry, as I conceive the protection of that place a secondary consideration and that it is not likely to be attacked. If you are forwarding reinforcements to this place, part of them may be left at York, but I am decidedly of the opinion that every man should be taken to create such a force here as will make the discomfiture and annihilation of the enemy beyond doubt.

———

Answers to questions submitted to officers of engineers:

Fort George is in a very bad state of defence and can make little or no resistance against an army computed at between 5,000 and 6,000 men, with a due proportion of heavy artillery, and the only thing to prevent its being taken by assault is a bad row of pickets. If Fort George falls into the enemy's hands, he will be enabled to carry on a regular attack against Fort Niagara on his own side of the river, which he would otherwise find difficult to do. Forts George and Niagara having fallen. Fort Missassauga will be very much weakened, as all the supplies without that fort will be cut off entirely. There is no secure cover for the garrison of Fort Missassauga and it would soon fall if attacked by land, Fort Niagara being the protection of our supplies outside it. Fort Missassauga would not be easily taken by assault, but is incapable of holding out against a bombardment.

———

Major Thomas Evans to Major-General Riall.

FORT GEORGE, 13th July, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that, conformable to your instructions, I last night proceeded with the company of the King's Regiment, consisting of two sergeants and 32 rank and file, to execute the orders with which you had been pleased to entrust me. The vicinity of the road leading to Colonel Hamilton's house was well examined, and every means used to ascertain if any enemy was in the neighborhood. The field at Hamilton's bearing suspicious marks that an enemy had been there, a non-commissioned officer and four rank and file were left to watch that position. Soon after our approach to Cope's and adjacent houses, a single shot was fired in the rear, but not being followed by others was disregarded, except by the company being kept in a most profound state of defence. Whilst examining the inhabitants on the points referred to me by you, the company was vigorously attacked from the rear by the road by which it had advanced. The enemy, however, notwithstanding his prodigious numbers, was foiled in his attempting to intercept its return, and his loss occasioned by the fire of my small party must have been great, from the fact of his so early desisting to act offensively against us. As the preservation of the company naturally became the first object, and being in the neighborhood of the enemy, I trust it will be thought enough was done to entitle the officers and men to the claim of their usual steadiness and gallantry. Every credit is due to Captain Sadleir, his subalterns, Lieuts. Barstow and Young—the former for his vigilance and caution: the latter for their animated example under very trying circumstances.

I enclose a list of casualities, and have the honor to be,

THOS. EVANS,
Maj. Comd'g King's Regt.

P. S.—Since writing the above, information has been received that the party by which the light company was attacked amounted to 200 men, under General Swift, who was killed in the affair with 17 of his men.

Major-General Riall to Lieut.-General Drummond.

20 MILE CREEK, 14th July, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose you a report of Major Evans of the King's Regiment, whom I had sent out with a small party on the evening of the 12th inst. I have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the Major and of the officers and men of that regiment on this occasion. The report of the death of Brigadier-General Swift is fully confirmed.

Brigade Orders.

QUEENSTON, July 13, 1814.

It is with the most painful sensations that Brigadier-General Porter announces the death of his friend and companion in arms, Brigadier-General John Swift. He yesterday generously volunteered his services to the Commanding General to reconnoitre the enemy's position and works at Fort George, accompanied by a party of 120 volunteers, and having by the most judicious arrangement succeeded in capturing, without the discharge of a gun, an outpost, a picquet with a corporal and five men, from whom he expected to obtain important information, he was assassinated by one of the prisoners, who after begging for and receiving quarter shot him through the breast.

The alarm occasioned by the discharge of the gun immediately brought towards the ground a patroling party of the enemy about 50 or 60 strong, when General Swift formed his men, advanced at their head upon the patrol and commenced a successful attack, when he fell exhausted by his wounds. The other officers of his command, of whom notice will hereafter be taken, animated by the example of heroism and fortitude which had been set them, fought, beat and drove the enemy into Fort George, from which they were not more than half a mile distant, and then retired, bearing their wounded and expiring General with them.

It is impossible for General Porter to express the poignancy of his own grief, or to appreciate the loss which the corps has sustained in the fall of this excellent officer. After serving his country for seven years in the war of the Revolution, he again stepped forward as a volunteer to give the aid of his experience in support of the violated rights of this country, and never was that country called on to lament the loss of a firmer patriot or a braver man.

He will be interred at 6 o'clock this afternoon with military honors. The brigade will parade at 5 p. m.

By order of Brig.-Gen. P. B. Porter.

JACOB DOX, A. D. C.

Extract from Niles' Register.

BALTIMORE, Md., July 30, 1814.

"There have been several small affairs between the piquets. On Tuesday night last a party from our army, commanded by General John Swift (late of Palmyra, Ontario County,) of the volunteers, encountered a party of the enemy, a part of whom surrendered, and while our party were advancing to receive those of

the enemy who had surrendered a fellow shot General Swift through the body, which wound proved mortal next morning.

"We understand the man escaped, but those who surrendered were brought in.

"On Friday last several wagons in the employ of the United States were taken by the enemy near St. David's, four miles from Queenston. Seth Cotton of Buffalo and his team were among the captured.

"On Saturday night last a party of the enemy, said to be Indians, surprised our picket at Fort Erie, consisting of eight men, two of whom were killed and the rest taken."

General Brown to Commodore Chauncey.

HEADQUARTERS, QUEENSTON, July 13, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR.—I arrived at this place on the 10th, as I assured you that with the blessing of God I would. All accounts agree that the force of the enemy in Kingston is very light. Meet me on the lake shore north of Fort George with your fleet, and we will be able, I have no doubt, to settle a plan of operations that will break the power of the enemy in Upper Canada, and that in the course of a short time. At all events, let me hear from you. I have looked for your fleet with the greatest anxiety since the 10th. I do not doubt my ability to meet the enemy in the field, and to march in any direction over his country—your fleet carrying for me the necessary supplies. We can threaten Forts George and Niagara, carry Burlington Heights and York, and proceed direct to Kingston and carry that place. For God's sake let me see you. Sir James will not fight; two of his vessels are now in the Niagara.

If you conclude to meet me at the head of the lake and that immediately, have the goodness to bring the guns and troops that I have ordered from the harbor; at all events have the politeness to let me know what aid I am to expect from the fleet of Lake Ontario.

There is not a doubt resting in my mind but we have between us the command of sufficient means to conquer Upper Canada within two months if there is prompt and zealous co-operation, and a vigorous application of these means; now is our time, before the enemy can be greatly reinforced.

Major-General Riall to Lieut.-General Drummond.

20 Mile Creek, 15th July, 1814.

Sir,—I have the honor to report to you that, agreeable to the intentions conveyed to you by my letter of the 12th, I caused the detachment of troops, as per margin, to move from Fort George on the morning of the 13th; and Colonel Scott having at the same time moved forward with the 103d Regiment from Burlington, a junction was formed at this place, where I have for the present placed the troops in position on the height above the creek.

I had ordered the Glengarry Regiment from York: three companies are, I understand, near at hand, and the remainder, I presume, from the Deputy-Adjutant General's letter, will soon arrive.

I have great satisfaction in stating to you the loyal and patriotic spirit of the militia of the London District, who have marched hither in numbers. The Lincoln Regiments are assembling, and in the course of to-morrow I expect the militia will muster in strength, and I have some hopes of the more spirited co-operation of the Indians.

With these favorable circumstances I meditated another attack upon the enemy, and conceiving that the sanction you gave for my withdrawing the garrison of York in the event of the enemy appearing in force from the westward would equally apply in other cases of great emergency, I yesterday despatched an order to Lieut.-Colonel Morrison to join me with the 89th without delay. With this regiment I had hoped that the capture or destruction of the greatest part of the enemy's force at Queenston would have been within my power.

From Lieut.-Colonel Morrison's instructions, a copy of which I received from the Deputy-Adjutant-General this day, I doubt whether that officer will feel himself authorized in obeying my orders, which I must greatly regret, because, from the information all along received of the enemy's means, it is to be presumed, speaking with reference to the force he has brought, that his private intentions are directed solely against the forts. York is therefore safe for the moment and I wished the attack immediate while in possession of the co-operation of the militia and Indians, which delay must deprive me of.

Artillery—Three 6-pounders, one 5½-inch howitzer.
Royals - - - - - - - - - 320
King's - - - - - - - - - 200
Incorporated Militia - - - - - 316
——836

Colonel Scott.
Artillery—Four 6-pounders.
103d - - - - - - - - - 600

General Riall to General Drummond.

20-Mile Creek, 16th July, 1814.

Sir,—I have the honor to enclose you a report from Lieut.-Colonel Tucker, left in the command of the forts on the frontier, and I hope the activity shown by that officer and the spirit evinced by the troops will meet with your approbation.

I propose to-morrow to take up a more advanced position at the 12 Mile Creek, for the purpose of favoring some parties of militia and Indians, who will be pushed forward with a view to gain information of the enemy's movements and prevent his receiving supplies from the country.

From the report of deserters and some prisoners who have been made, I learn that the enemy has been reinforced by 700 men, who were crossed over at Lewiston. A return of the troops and militia is forwarded by this express to the Deputy-Adjutant-General.

Lieut.-Colonel Tucker to Major-General Riall.

Mississaga Fort, 15th July, ½ past 10 p. m.

Sir,—When I had the honor of addressing you this afternoon the enemy's columns were advancing in great force in every direction, with a view of driving in my picquets and establishing their position, as I apprehend to open and carry on their operations against the fortresses which you did me the honor to entrust to my surveillance. I lost no opportunity of directing my picquets to contest the advance of the enemy with vigor and resolution, and happy am I to report that this arduous duty was executed with vigor and skill, which enabled me to complete every arrangement which I thought expedient (under circumstances of peculiar interest and anxiety) to adopt. The prisoners and other individuals who had been in the enemy's camp afforded me an assurance that the American army destined for the reduction of these three fortresses amounted to 8, 9 or 10,000, and the very formidable columns which they brought forward and the extent of ground which they occupied, extending from the left to the right of these fortresses, sufficiently proved that their numbers were considerable, and not less than three thousand men.

I wish to do justice to a brave enemy on every occasion, and must therefore confess that they pushed forward in a spirited manner, our picquets retiring before them. You are aware of the very extraordinary and peculiar mode of warfare, advantageous and only applicable to American troops in this country, and I trust you will approve my having allowed my advanced posts to retire with

a view of drawing them into an open country to enable me to take advantage of the superior skill of British troops.

I had every reason to believe, from many concurrent accounts, that the American army intended and expected to carry everything before it from its vast superiority of numerical force, but I am proud to assure you that a very different opinion was entertained by every individual under my command, all equally determined to do their duty to their country.

Skirmishing with the advanced posts continued from the enemy until three o'clock, when I deemed it prudent to move out of this fortress two six-pounders under Lieut. Tomkyns, Royal Artillery, (the enemy having formed a very solid column, supported with a six-pounder and howitzer, on the road leading to Colonel Hamilton's,) which were so well served and judiciously directed that I had the pleasure of seeing them retire after having made a feeble resistance. The six-pounders were supported and protected by a detachment of the King's Regiment under Captain Campbell. The Royal Regiment also moved out of Fort George, agreeable to my orders, to be in readiness to move on any point which circumstances might require. The zeal and exertions of Major Deane of the Royals, and Captain McLauchlan, Royal Artillery, both in command of important forts, afforded me the highest satisfaction, and inspired me with a perfect confidence in their co-operation should the enemy make a vigorous effort to possess himself of my guns, or to turn the flanks of my small parties. After a very brisk cannonade of near an hour, I had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy move off one of his field-pieces, having, I imagine, suffered from the fire of our artillery. The enthusiasm and zeal of the troops under my command, viz.: Royal Artillery, Royals, King's and 41st Regiment, will ever deserve my esteem, and I hope will afford you a confidential reliance on a gallant defence of the three forts should the threatened siege ever take place.

Every individual seemed to be actuated by one sentiment of distinguishing himself on the field of battle, and every encouragement was given to the enemy to come forward to try the temper of our troops. To all I feel deeply indebted for various services, but I beg to call to your particular notice Lieut. Hill, King's Regiment, Staff Adjutant; Lieut. Le Breton, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, and Lieut. O'Reilly, acting as my aide-de-camp. These officers afforded me the greatest satisfaction—their conduct was conspicuous to all. Lieut. Philpot, Royal Engineers, has a just claim to my regard and perfect approbation;—animated in the field and judicious in his opinions, I derived great assistance from him.

The Canadian Militia harassed the enemy in a very manly and spirited style. They merit my most favorable opinion.

I congratulate you, sir, on the complete failure of a dashing enterprize of the enemy to establish his superiority over us, which he vainly imagined might lead to the reduction of these fortresses without much resistance. We have driven him back without having suffered on our part, although we were sensible that his loss alone induced him to retire. From my own observation and every account from other officers I am persuaded that three thousand troops occupied our front at the time of my advance. Thus, sir, you may perceive the just degree of credit due to Lieut. Tomkyns and his artillery for that execution which induced so large a force to retire.

I write at a very late hour to despatch a message to you, in the hope that your advance may enable me to act offensively, and as I am much tired, which must plead my excuse for this very hasty letter.

JOHN G. P. TUCKER, Lt.-Col.

General Peter B. Porter to General Jacob Brown.

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS, July 16, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of your instructions to me to move round Fort George, interrupt the enemy's communication with the country and reconnoitre his works, I marched yesterday morning at reveille, accompanied by that excellent officer, Major Wood of the engineers, with the whole of my brigade and two pieces of artillery under Captain Ritchie of the regular army, by the way of St. Davids and the Cross Roads to Lake Ontario, where we had an opportunity to examine the northern face of Forts Riall and Niagara, about two miles distant. From the lake I returned to the Cross Roads, moved in upon Fort George, drove the enemy's pickets and formed the brigade in full view and within a mile of the fort. Lieut.-Colonel Wilcocks with his command, Captains Hull, Harding and Freeman with their companies of New York Volunteers, and Captain Fleming with part of our Indian warriors, advanced under cover of a tuft of woods within musket shot of the fort, and afforded Major Wood a fair opportunity to examine the works.

After remaining an hour and a half, and having accomplished the object of the expedition, I returned slowly around the south side of Fort George and joined General Ripley on the Niagara, and with his brigade retired to camp at nine in the evening.

The enemy fired but a few shots from his batteries, and, with the exception of two or three small parties that were sent out and immediately driven back by our light troops, kept close within his

works until we were retiring, when several pieces of artillery were sent out and a brisk fire commenced on our rear.

We lost not a man killed, and but two (both of Colonel Swift's regiment) wounded. Lieut. Fontaine of the artillery and one of Colonel Boughton's officers had their horses killed under them by cannon shot.

But I have to report the loss of five men of Capt. Boughton's fine company of New York Cavalry made prisoners. They are the victims of your own generous policy of suffering the inhabitants, who profess neutrality, to remain unmolested. The safety of my brigade required me to place videttes at the several roads leading from Fort George and crossing my line of march at right angles. Five of them were surprised and taken by a party of 15 or 20 militia who live on the road, but who had secreted themselves in the woods on our approach, and were advised of all our movements and positions by the women who were thronging around us on our march. Some of these men, I am informed, have been in our camp professing friendship.

The conduct of every part of my command was such as not only to meet my approbation, but considering the descripton of force to excite my highest admiration. They performed a march of thirty miles, drove in the enemy's pickets, lay for some hours under his batteries, retired in good order, and in every movement of the day exhibited examples of order, fortitude and gallantry, which would have been honorable to the oldest corps.

General Riall to General Drummond.

20 Mile Creek, 17th July, 1814.

Sir,—Since I wrote you yesterday transmitting a report of Lieut.-Colonel Tucker of the enemy's appearance before Fort George and of his having retired to Queenston, nothing extraordinary has occurred. I had the honor to receive your letter of the 13th, informing me of your intention to come up here and of the reinforcements we may shortly expect, at both of which circumstances I am very highly pleased. Under the circumstances that have taken place it is very much to be regretted that Fort Niagara should have been so weakened as it is to our side. The officers of engineers did intend to do something to protect and strengthen it when I left Fort George, and I make no doubt are working there. I shall write to Lieut.-Colonel Tucker on the subject immediately. Fort George has not, as you imagine, a 24-pounder mounted in it. There are three 18-pounders, two garrison 12-pounders and two field 12-pounders that were brought from Queenston Hill, one 9,

and one 8-inch mortar and howitzer, but I do not think the twelves that are mounted on the land or western face are sufficiently heavy in case the enemy shall erect batteries against it, which of course he will do; the only 24-pounders that were sent up, four in number, are mounted in Missassauga, as are the two brass guns of that calibre; the 24-pounder belonging to the *Magnet* is mounted in the southwest angle of Fort Niagara, which is a very important situation, as it overlooks the plain and Fort George better than any other position it affords. I gave direction that the rampart of the north face of Fort George is to be levelled in order to open the plain as much as possible to the fire of Niagara. The Commissary of Ordnance, Mr. Gordon, deserves to be displaced from his situation for the most gross neglect. I have more than once remarked to him on seeing his returns that the quantity of powder was not sufficient, but being assured by him that it was equal to 200 rounds for every piece of ordnance we had, which was all we are allowed by the Board of Ordnance, I did not myself make a calculation to see whether it was or not. When Sir James Yeo arrived at Niagara, I sent for Mr. Gordon and further asked if he wanted powder, as if he did I should make an application to the Commodore for it. He told me he did not want any, that he had an ample supply. In the course of two or three days after he reported to me that there was not sufficient powder and that it would be necessary to get up some both from York and Burlington, which has been effected with a good deal of trouble, to the amount of, I believe, 40 barrels. There wants a great reformation in that department of the ordnance here. I have much reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of Captain Norton in a circumstance which has occurred within a day or two, and which possibly may be attended with very serious consequences, and which I am sorry to say places him, I think, in a very suspicious point of view. Two American Indians arrived at Burlington, bringing with them an old Cayuga chief, who had been taken in the action at Chippawa. Captain Norton was not only acquainted with this circumstance, but permitted them to attend a council of the Six Nations in order to deliver a message from those in the interest of America. It is true, I believe, that the officer who was left in command at Burlington was informed of the circumstance, but he was ignorant of the customs of those people and uncertain how he should act and did not apprehend them. Whatever those fellows have said has caused much dissatisfaction among the Indians, and the western people have reason to suspect the Six Nations of treachery. Colonel Caldwell had told Norton that he should not only have prevented the American Indians from intercourse with his, but that he should have apprehended them immediately, which

he would not do, and when I asked him why he had not done so, he replied that he had neither guard nor place to put them in, and that it was the business of the officer commanding the post. There is something extraordinary, I do think, in Mr. Norton's conduct altogether in this business. Very few of the Cayugas and Onondagas have come forward with the other Indians.

There is a considerable body of militia collected here, and it will be a great pity if the reinforcements you have ordered up should not arrive to take advantage of it. Their hay being now receiving injury and their corn ripening fast, they will not be induced, I fear, to remain long. They are all fine, serviceable men, few or none coming under the description you wish should be sent home. The whole of our wounded men have arrived at York. Lieut.-Colonel Tucker has been instructed to hold out to the last extremity all the forts. The garrisons that have been left in them are fully sufficient for their defence. In Fort George are nearly 400 of the Royals, 200 of the 100th, and upwards of 60 artillery. In Missassauga 290 odd of the King's, the Colored Corps, Military Artificers, and others, making, with artillery, not far from 400 men. In Fort Niagara the 41st and the whole of the marine artillery. I have not heard from Lieut.-Colonel Tucker since I received the report which has been transmitted to you.

P. S.—I have only this moment, just as I was closing this letter, received yours of the 14th, brought, I am told, by an officer, whom I have not seen. I am glad I anticipated your supposition that I had fallen back on the 14th. I know nothing of the circumstances attending the fall of Fort Erie. The garrison consisted of 100 men of the 100th Regiment, and 20 artillery. The reinforcement you directed me to send there was on its way, and was very near falling into the hands of the enemy. All the wounded officers are doing well; most of them are gone to York. Capt. Holland never would confine himself for a moment, though shot through the left hand and wounded in the head. Capt. Bridge and Lieut. Armstrong have arrived at York some time since. We have not made many prisoners, in all not more than 10 or 12. Several deserters have come to us—six in one day—they have been sent to York. I am happy to say we have not lost any. One, I understand, attempted to desert, but was apprehended by some of the militia. There are now several parties out, who prevent the enemy from coming beyond their picquets. One party surprised some dragoons in St. Davids, took three dragoons and four horses. Willcocks was in the village at the time, but unfortunately escaped. Mallory was very near being taken by another party, near the Beaver Dams. A party of militia, Indians, and a few soldiers were

sent to Chippawa the other night to endeavor to surprise a guard they were said to have there, but there was neither man nor boat to be found. They get everything across from Lewiston, to which place they have brought their boats. It is impossible now to send over any Indians to the other side of the Niagara, indeed, if they were at Fort George I do not think they would go. My reason for preventing them from bringing the horses and cows across the water, you must, I hope, be aware, was because I was at the moment claiming restitution from American officers for private property taken or destroyed by their soldiers at Dover. If the same latitude is to be given to our Indians, have we any right to complain?

General Riall to General Drummond.

12 Mile Creek, July 19th, 1814.

Sir,—Since I had the honor of writing to you on the 17th, nothing of an important nature has occurred. The troops at present occupy the position of the Twelve Mile Creek, having in advance at the 10 to the right, extending to DeCoo's and Street's Mills, the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Regiments of Lincoln Militia and a body of Indians, the main body of whom is with the advance of the troops at the Twelve. There was a good deal of skirmishing yesterday with the advance of the militia and the enemy's outposts near St. David's, and they have in consequence burnt that village and several of the neighboring houses. They have also, I understand, burnt the whole of the houses between Queenston and the Falls. The 2d Brigade of militia, under Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton, is at the 40 Mile Creek. I am happy to be able to inform you that almost the whole body of militia is in arms, and seem actuated by the most determined spirit of hostility to the enemy. The Indians also are in great numbers, not less, I believe, than 900, and evince the same spirit. It is very much to be regretted that it cannot be taken advantage of at the moment. Everything goes well at Fort George.

Extract from the Memorial of Major David Secord to the Assembly of Canada.

While the American army was at Queenston, in the District of Niagara, under the immediate command of General Brown, a detachment of his troops under the direction of a Colonel Stone entered the village of St. Davids and said it was their avowed intention to burn, plunder, and destroy that Tory village, as they had been well informed that it had been headquarters for the British

troops, and they were fully determined that they should not find shelter in that place if they should ever return.

Accordingly they went to work and burnt, plundered, and destroyed of his real and personal property as follows:

One frame house, three stories, 22 by 80 feet, with three stacks of brick fire chimneys, seven fire-places, built and furnished for a house of entertainment, with sheds and stables thereto belonging.

One stone dwelling house, two stories, 24 by 30 feet.

One stone ditto, two stories, 24 by 60 feet.

One grist mill, stone and timber, 22 by 40 feet, with bolts and machinery.

One blacksmith shop and all the tools.

One new frame barn, 34 by 44 feet, with two fanning mills and other property.

Two log buildings, 22 by 20 feet.

One thousand weight of candles contracted for with the British troops at 2/ per pound.

Seven horses and four cows, 20 fat hogs supposed to weigh from 150 to 250 each.

One new wagon with a large yoke of oxen, laden with furniture.

One store of merchant goods, priced at £500.

All his household furniture and family clothing.

Nearly all the above property burnt and destroyed on the 19th July, 1814.

Major MacFarland, 23d U. S. Infantry, to his wife.

(Extract.)

The (American) militia and Indians plundered and burnt everything. The whole population is against us; not a foraging party but is fired on, and not unfrequently returns with missing numbers. This state was to be anticipated. The militia have burnt several private dwelling houses, and on the 19th inst. burnt the village of St. Davids, consisting of 30 or 40 houses. This was done within three miles of our camp, and my battalion was sent to cover the retreat, as they had been sent to scour the country and it was presumed they might be pursued. My God, what a service! I never witnessed such a scene, and had not the commanding officer of the party, Lieut.-Colonel Stone, been disgraced and sent out of the army, I would have resigned.

Colonel Isaac W. Stone to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER,
GENESEE FALLS, July 25th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 18th inst. I was, with a small detachment of volunteers, by order of General Peter B. Porter, ordered to go and dislodge a party of the enemy's troops at a small village called St. Davids, about three miles from Queenston, who were annoying our reconnoitering parties and picquets. Accordingly, I went, and in a short time after followed a few regulars under the command of a lieutenant, as I understood. We drove the enemy from the said village. When on my return, about one mile and a-half from the said village, with most of the men under my command, (I have since been satisfied that none of them were in the village at the time,) I discovered the village of St. Davids to be on fire. By whom it was set, or by whose order, I am yet to learn. On the morning of the following day, without notice, without inquiry, or any investigation to my knowledge, I was served by the Brigade-Inspector with the following order:

"*General Order.*

"Asst.-Adj.-General's Office,
"QUEENSTON, 19th July, 1814.

"The accountability for burning the houses at St. Davids yesterday must rest with the senior officer. It was directly contrary to the orders of the Government and those of the Commanding General published to the army.

"Lieut.-Colonel Stone will retire from the army.

"By order of Major-General Brown.

"C. K. GARDNER,
"Adjt.-Gen."

In consequence of which order two captains and one adjutant of the volunteers have resigned their commissions, not knowing how soon they might share the same fate. I feel injured, inasmuch as I am not guilty of the charge alleged against me. My reputation is somewhat impeached before the public. All I ask for is a fair investigation of my conduct, whether I am guilty or not guilty. As I am at a loss how to get this investigation, I pray Your Excellency to advise with me in what manner I shall proceed.

Extract from Niles' Register.

BALTIMORE, August 6, 1814.

"It is untrue that Fort Erie had been retaken as stated in our last; 300 troops had arrived there from Erie, Pa., in three of our

schooners. The *Buffalo Gazette* of the 25th ult. says, 'Since the American army arrived at Queenston there were several teams in the United States' employment attacked by armed inhabitants of a place called St. Davids, about four miles from Queenston. A few teams were captured and some of the drivers and men attached to to the wagons wounded, and several other instances of this kind of petty skirmishing took place in the vicinity of that place. In order to put a stop to these proceedings, a party of General Porter's volunteers, commanded by Colonel Stone, marched to St. Davids; a skirmish began, in which several of the inhabitants and a few of the volunteers were killed, a part of the village was then burnt. The act, we learn, was perfectly unauthorized. General Brown has dismissed the officer who commanded the expedition.'

"On the 20th ult., 100 men of the 22d Regiment embarked at Erie in the U. S. schooner *Porcupine* for Buffalo, and the next day 220 men of the 1st Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Nicholas, left the same place with the like destination, in the schooners *Ohio* and *Tygress*. Two fine companies of the 19th Regiment passed through Zanesville, Ohio, (to embark at Cleveland) on the 15th ulto."

General Riall to General Drummond.

12 Mile Creek, 20th July, 1814.

Sir,—I received a report from Lieut.-Colonel Tucker this day informing me that about 7 o'clock this morning the officer commanding the picquet at Wilson's house, on the road from Fort George to Queenston, had been obliged to withdraw from thence in consequence of the advance of the enemy in that direction with a body of cavalry and infantry and four pieces of artillery. It appears to be the intention of the enemy to take up that position, in order to prevent which Lieut.-Colonel Tucker directed a fire to be commenced upon them from the batteries of Fort George, but with what effect he could not ascertain on account of the quantity of brushwood that interposed. When Lieut.-Colonel Tucker wrote to me the communication with this place was still open, and the enemy at that time occupied McFarlane's and Wilson's, and had a picquet of cavalry near to the ruins of Dickson's house. As I have not heard the report of any guns since 9 o'clock, although the Lieut.-Colonel mentioned that he would occasionally throw some shot and shells to annoy them, I imagine they have retired again to their position at Queenston. Three deserters were brought in here about 3 o'clock. One of them appears to be a very intelligent young man, and has given the enclosed report of the amount of their force according to the best of his judgment. I anxiously

wait your arrival here, and I beg leave to express my hope that you will by all means push forward the 89th Regiment, the first division of which I understood from Colonel Morrison was to arrive at York this day. There is a very fine body of militia under Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton at the 40 Mile Creek, which it may be necessary to bring forward also.

Substance of information given by three deserters of the 23d Regiment, United States Army, who came to our advanced posts, 20th July, 1814.

They left Queenston at 10 a. m., and having been separately examined report as follows :—

The American army, believed to amount to nearly 6,000 men, exclusive of nearly 1,400 volunteers and Indians. Strength of the artillery not known, tho' the following pieces have been seen by the parties :

Five iron 18 pounders,
One brass 18 do.,
and several pieces of smaller calibre.

Two regiments of cavalry, about 100 men ; mounted volunteers, (licensed plunderers engaged for six months at 25 dollars per month,) 180 men.

The following regiments are at Queenston :

	Supposed strength.
23d	600
21st	900
9th	not known.
11th	
13th	
22nd	
25th	
	= 6,000 men.

One company bombardiers.

Informants further mention that a general parade was ordered last night at Queenston, when it was publicly declared that Colonel Stone of the volunteers was cashiered the service *(Credat Judæus Appella !)*

Informants add that the army was put in motion at 7 this morning, with the avowed intention of proceeding against Fort George. A strong division was at the same time sent across the river. The brigade to which the deserters belonged did not leave Queenston. It was Scott's brigade that was sent towards Fort George.

Major-General Riall to Lieut.-General Drummond.

12 Mile Creek, 20th July, ½ past 10 p. m.

Sir,—Since I wrote you this evening I have received a letter from Lt.-Col. Tucker, informing me that he has been enabled to ascertain the position of the enemy between McFarlane's and Wilson's, where he is in very great force. Lt.-Col. Tucker apprehended a very serious attack will be made upon him, probably this night. He believes the enemy is throwing up a work on the rising ground in front of Wilson's, as his advanced sentries think they hear people at work and the noise of plank being thrown upon the ground from wagons. I am really in a very unpleasant predicament. It will be expected that I should do something to relieve Fort George, which I certainly have every inclination to do, but if I advanced from this I leave the country in my rear perfectly exposed to the enemy's advance from Queenston, or if I move in that direction and from thence to Fort George, the enemy may, if he pleases, detach a part of his force by the cross roads to effect the object of getting into my rear and to Burlington. If, besides, I should advance and any reverse happen, I look upon it as fraught with the greatest danger to the province. I am most anxious for your arrival, and I entreat you will direct the 89th to be pushed forward with all despatch, and also the flank companies of the 104th, whom Lt.-Col. Morrison detained at York. If Fort George should be seriously attacked I fear, from the report of officers of engineers and artillery that I send you, that it will not be capable of much resistance. Lt.-Col. Tucker had four men wounded in a skirmish with one of the enemy's piquets, one of whom lost his leg.

———

——— ——— **to the Secretary of War.**

Sackett's Harbor, July 20, 1814.

Sir,—Taking a warm interest in the success of the campaign, and suspecting that the government has not been as reguarly informed of things at this post as might be proper, I have ventured to give you the following statement of facts which have recently taken place, which for clearness and brevity I give the form of a journal:

8th July.—Saw the Commodore, who said he was now nearly ready, and would leave the harbor in a few days and take a station off the Ducks to watch Yeo, who was in Kingston.

12th.—Fleet yet in port. General Gaines had a free conversation with the Commodore, who said he should not go to the head of the lake unless called by Yeo's movements.

14th.—No change in the situation of the fleet nor in the intentions of the Commodore. When he does sail will go to the Ducks.

15th.—The Commodore sick with a fever, expected to be able to go out in three or four days.

17th.—Morgan's rifle battalion, conveying a battering train sent for by General Brown, sailed yesterday in boats supplied by the quartermaster. Their fate doubtful, our fleet being yet in the harbor, detained by something wanted for the *Mohawk*. Yeo and his fleet at the Ducks. The Commodore expects to be out by the 20th, but will not go to the head of the lake unless Yeo leads him there.

20th.—Morgan, with the riflemen and cannon, prevented from sailing by Yeo's blockade of the harbor. Expected the fleet (now ready) would break the blockade to-day. Prevented by the continued illness of the Commodore. Captain Jones would have gone out and settled the matter with Yeo, but had not authority to do so. Strange, that when the chief of a squadron is *non compos* the officer next in rank is not entitled to the command. If this be a rule in the navy it should be altered. There was a fine opportunity of fighting and winning the long wished for battle, but lost because the only man in the fleet who was not ready was the commanding officer.

(From General John Armstrong's Notices of the War of 1812, Vol. II., pp. 237-8.)

Gen. Riall to Gen. Drummond.

12 Mile Creek, 21st July, 1814.

Sir,—I have received no report from Lt.-Col. Tucker since last night. The enemy has concentrated his whole force, with the exception of about 300 men who have crossed the river to Lewiston, between De Puisaye's and McFarlane's. He is certainly erecting batteries against Fort George, a little in advance of Wilson's house. A deserter brought in this day says he thinks they will be completed to-morrow. The ordnance which he has with him consists of four 18-pounders, an eleven inch mortar, two heavy howitzers, and several smaller pieces. The deserter who gave this information belonged to the artillery, and I believe it to be correct. All the deserters who come in agree pretty well in the computation of their numbers. A man, who came over here on some business with one of the American officers, was made prisoner this evening by a party of our militia. He says they are in hourly expectation of the arrival of the fleet with a large reinforcement of troops. It is very

much to be lamented that we have not sufficient force to attack them before its arrival. Our militia occupy Queenston and St. Davids this evening. In the former place they made three prisoners. I have just got a report from the officer commanding at Burlington to say that he has received information that a party of the enemy, consisting of about 200 infantry and 80 horsemen, have been at Port Talbot, where they have done a great deal of injury to the crops in that settlement, and that they threaten to advance into the country for a similar purpose. Lt.-Col. Hamilton has sent the Oxford Regt. of militia and some Indians in that direction from the 40 Mile Creek. I have the honor herewith to enclose you a return of the officers and troops composing the garrisons of the several forts as called for in the deputy-adjutant-general's letter of the 16th inst., received this day. Capt. Jervois arrived here this evening.

Gen. Riall to Gen. Drummond.

12 Mile Creek, 22 July, 1814.

Sir,—I have just received the enclosed letter from Lt.-Col. Tucker, which I lose not a moment in forwarding to you. I also enclose to you the information received from some deserters that came into Fort George last evening. The troops shall be ready to move at a moment's warning, but I shall wait for your orders before I put them in motion. The number I have here amount, with the Incorporated Militia, to about 1,700 men, the militia that may be collected probably amount to between 7 and 800, the Indians to about a similar number. Capt. Jervois takes this letter and goes by the Beach. I send a duplicate by Burlington. If you send your orders by express they shall be instantly obeyed. I have resolved to wait for your directions, as the attempt may involve the safety of the whole of the troops as well in the field as in the garrisons. Fort George may fall, but I cannot think there can be much danger for Missassauga and Niagara for some days. The enemy have a considerable body of troops on their own side of the river, which have been lately marched down from Buffalo. They are constructing a battery at the old Salt Battery near Youngstown, for which they have got, by the reports of deserters, two 32-pounders and two 12 inch mortars.

P. S.—I have ordered the Lincoln Militia to concentrate at the 10 Mile Creek, and Lt.-Col. Hamilton's brigade to move from the 40 to this place.

Information of Deserters to Fort George.

Stanley Rose, private, 8th Co., 9th Regt., Maj. Leavenworth, deserted because he was afraid of hard fighting:

1st Brigade, commanded by Gen. Scott, consists of 3,000 men, the whole force consists of 6,000 or 7,000 men on this side the river and 2,000 on the other side, with two long 32-pdrs. and two 12 inch mortars for a battery at Youngstown; four 5 or 6 inch howitzers on this side, four long 18-pdrs., three 6 or 9-pdrs.

It will not be long before they attack, most likely next day.

They expect the schooners up the river and have a battery near McFarlane's to prevent their advancing.

Gen. Brown is on this side; the first brigade is commanded by Gen. Scott, the second by Gen. Ripley, the 3rd by Gen. Porter, total 5,000 or 6,000 men; 2,000 regulars at Youngstown; 1,000 militia and 500 Indians in 3rd Brigade; 4,000 regulars in 1st and 2nd Brigades. When they crossed the river there were 500 Indians and 1,500 volunteers and militia.

Originally the army was 8,000 men, reduced to about 5,000 fighting men. When at Chippawa 85 were buried and 150 wounded. A shell burst yesterday and killed Gen. Scott's horse under him near McFarlane's. Lieut. Childs and about a dozen wounded and one killed yesterday.

Orders were issued that all tents should be struck before daybreak in order to surround us and cut off all communication with Burlington.

Some long 18-pdrs. with the howitzers to come to-morrow to attack the fort, while the army will go to the 4 Mile Creek to surround us. This information from the officers of his regiment, who heard it on parade in the orders. He thinks the men much more determined than the officers.

They have about 150 or 200 horse.

Benj. Barnard, 9th Regt., deserted because his time was out and they would not give him his discharge:

On this side are four 18-pdrs., four 12-pdrs., four 6-pdrs., two howitzers; on other side: two 32-pdrs., two 12 inch mortars; on this side about 5,000 regulars, 1,000 volunteers; 2,000 regulars on other side. Their intention to strike their tents at daybreak and attack Fort George tomorrow by surrounding it. They expect we have about 1,000 men towards St. Davids. Originally the army was 7,000 on this side, and only 2,000 and some horse re-crossed. About 44 killed and not 100 wounded. Gens. Brown, Scott and Porter are on this side. Plenty of provisions. The first shot fired yesterday struck Gen. Scott's horse in the neck. The artillery belonging to the 18-pdrs. said they have prepared ladders for

scaling Fort George. The enemy will come by day, not before 8 or 9 a. m.

The enemy are building a battery on the other side against Fort George, and one beyond McFarlane's against our vessels. No battery nearer to Fort George than Wilson's. The enemy intends to attack Fort George and Niagara at once.

General Riall to General Drummond.

12 Mile Creek, 22 July, 1814.

Sir,—I had the honor to write to you this morning by Capt. Jervois and enclosed you a letter I had received from Lt.-Col. Tucker, stating his apprehensions for the safety of Fort George from the vast preparations the enemy seemed to be employed in making for its reduction, and urging me to advance immediately for its relief. About 3 o'clock p. m. I received a report from Capt. Fitzgibbon of the Glengarry Regt., whom I had sent out with a party for the purpose of reconnoitering and gaining information of the enemy's intentions, that he had withdrawn from his position before Fort George and was again falling back upon Queenston. From the top of the hill, over that place where Capt. Fitzgibbon was enabled to see his whole force, which was in column, extending from near the village to De Puisaye's house. The wagons and baggage seemed to be halted at Brown's. When Capt. Fitzgibbon left the hill, which he was obliged to do by the advance of a body of cavalry and riflemen, the column was moving towards St. Davids, and when about 1,000 men, &c., entered into that direction it was halted. Capt. Fitzgibbon was obliged to retire with his party through St. Davids, and was pursued about a mile upon the road leading from thence to this place. I understand some riflemen have advanced to within a mile of the 10 Mile Creek, which is the rendezvous of Lt.-Col. Parry's brigade of militia. That officer has been indefatigable in his exertions and has acquired great influence with the militia. I have directed Lt.-Col. Pearson to detach two companies of the Glengarry Regt. to his support and he has besides a considerable number of Indians with him.

I make no doubt the enemy has either retired or been driven back before this, or I would have received further information. I have not been able to learn what the enemy has intended by this movement, which he evidently wished to mask by the numbers of riflemen and dragoons which he had thrown out in his front. I have received a report also from Lt.-Col. Tucker that their army had abandoned his position before Fort George and that his picquets were again established at Wilson's and McFarlane's. The communication with this place is perfectly open.

Col. Harvey to Gen. Riall.

York, 23rd July, 1814.

Sir,—I am directed by Lt.-Gen. Drummond to acknowledge the receipt of your letter by Capt. Jervois, with the enclosure from Lt.-Col. Tucker, and to acquaint you that the Lieutenant-General is by no means inclined to balk the ardor of the troops, whom it is his intention immediately to employ in offensive operations. Until the arrival, however, of some part of the reinforcement at present on their march to this point, the Lieut.-General does not consider it prudent, highly as he thinks of the bravery of the troops, to risque an attack on a force so powerful as that which you represent the enemy to have on this side of the river; the consequence of failure might be the immediate fall of the forts and the temporary loss of that part of the province. Conceiving, however, from your report, that the disposition the enemy is making for an attack of Fort George affords a favorable opportunity for operations on the Niagara side, Lt.-Col. Morrison, with 400 of the 89th Regt., is this moment embarking on board the *Star* and *Charwell* to reinforce the garrison of Fort Niagara, and to enable Lt.-Col. Tucker to make a sortie from the fort for the purpose of gaining possession of the guns the enemy may have in the Salt and Youngstown batteries, and which, if suffered to remain, would render Fort George untenable in a few hours. Lt.-Col. Drummond, with the flank companies of the 104th Regt., is also instructed to throw himself into Fort Niagara to assist in this operation, and it has been suggested to Lt.-Col. Tucker to draw a couple of hundred men from Forts George and Missassauga, (in such proportions as he may think proper,) to leave in Fort Niagara in the absence of the other troops. Lieut.-Gen. Drummond proposes that the attack should take place on Monday at daylight, and from the character of the officers and troops to be employed he feels very sanguine hopes of its success. In order to favor this operation, however, and to draw the attention of the enemy from that side of the river, it is the Lieut.-General's wish that you should march to St. Davids and concentrate the whole of the regular force under your command at that place, throwing the militia and Indians into the woods towards the enemy's position and the lake. The Lieut.-General conceives that this movement may be made with perfect safety on your part, as in event of the enemy's pushing promptly forward to attack or interpose betwixt you and Burlington, you can always (as you have to move on so much shorter a line) reach Shipman's (the point of junction of the roads) before him, that is, provided you take precautions to cause his movements to be properly watched and reported, and even in this case the diversion in favor of Lt.-Col.

Tucker would be effected. It is not probable, however, in the Lieut.-General's opinion, that the enemy would move with that degree of promptness expecting an attack from you; he would, it is conceived, rather wait in his position than anticipate it. In this event (of his making no immediate movement towards you) the Lieut.-General conceives that by showing your force towards the Queenston Road, at the moment of Lieut.-Col. Tucker's attack, at the same time driving in the enemy's picquets by means of your Indians and militia, he would be deterred from passing over reinforcements to support the batteries at Youngstown, which movement might further be prevented by the fire of our schooners, which, with the gunboat, must take a position for that purpose two hours previous to moving out to the attack. Lt.-Col. Tucker is directed to throw up two rockets, and not to excite alarm or suspicion they will be thrown up from Fort George or Missassauga. (To annul this signal, should unexpected intelligence or other circumstances occur to render it expedient, one rocket will be fired.) From the moment of your putting the troops in motion from their present position, the whole of your militia and Indian force should be thrown forward, and from their numbers and description must be superior to any body of light troops which the enemy can have. The importance of placing the militia under the direction of intelligent officers is very obvious. In addition to those at present acting with that force he recommends Lt.-Col. Pearson being so employed. Should the enemy by pressing suddenly and boldly on you make an action unavoidable, you must, by means of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Incorporated Militia, endeavor to check his light troops until you reach an open space in which, keeping your guns in your centre and your force concentrated, your flanks secured by light troops, militia and Indians, you must depend upon the superior discipline of the troops under your command for success over an undisciplined though confident and numerous enemy. It is Lieut.-Gen. Drummond's intention to pass over to Fort Niagara in the course of to-morrow, in order to ascertain the accuracy of the intelligence respecting the state of the enemy's force and of his preparations on the right bank of the river. He will then proceed to your headquarters, probably by way of the 10 Mile Creek. In event of the operation above alluded to taking place on Monday morning, and of its success, he may be induced to take advantage of the impression produced to risque an attack with the whole of the force on the frontier (including the garrisons of the forts) without waiting for the junction of the DeWatteville Regt., which, however, is expected to arrive here on Monday, and is ordered to push on with all possible expedition. In the present state of the

wind the American fleet, even were it out, could not reach Niagara in less than 7 or 8 days from the time of its sailing. It had not sailed on the 20th.

Lt.-Col. Drummond is ordered to deposit the musket ball cartridges he has in charge, 50,000 rounds, at Burlington. Captain Dobbs will take over a further supply, but the Lieut.-General is in ignorance as to the quantity you have with you, never having received returns of ordnance stores and ammunition with the right division.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col. D. A. G.

Lt.-Col. Harvey to Lt.-Col. Tucker.

(Secret.)

YORK, 23rd July, 1814.

SIR,—Lt.-Gen. Drummond directs me to acquaint you that Lt.-Col. Morrison, with 400 rank and file of the 89th Regt., who are sent to Fort Niagara, as well as Lt.-Col. Drummond, with the flank companies of the 104th Regt., for the purpose of enabling you to gain the guns, with which the Lieut.-General understands the enemy is arming the batteries at Youngstown, by an attack upon the troops stationed for their protection, which, it is the Lieut.-General's wish, should take place on Monday morning at daylight. In order to enable you to employ the whole of the 41st Regt., in addition to the troops above mentioned, in this sortie, Lieut.-General Drummond will approve of you drawing a couple of hundred men from the garrisons of Forts George and Missassauga, in such proportions as you may think proper, to be sent back immediately after the performance of the service. Maj.-General Riall has received instructions to draw the enemy's attention from your side of the river and operate a diversion in favor of your sortie by advancing the whole of his force to St. Davids, pushing forward his militia and Indians towards the enemy's position. It is not Lieut.-General Drummond's wish to risque an action on the left bank of the river until the arrival of part of the reinforcements, which are marching on this place and expected to arrive on Monday. Should the attack on the right be *successful*, the impression which it may occasion on the force of the enemy on this side, particularly if his *boats* are *gained by us*, may afford a favorable opportunity, which Maj.-General Riall is directed to improve, and in that case, or in the event of the failure of your attack and the enemy forcing Maj.-General Riall to action, you are to move out every man who can be spared from the three forts, and favor the Maj.-General's operations by threatening or

attacking the enemy's rear. It is conceived that with the 89th, 104th flank companies and *two thirds* of your garrisons, you would have a force amounting to nearly 1500 for this purpose. The more effectually to prevent the enemy from passing over troops to the assistance of those to be attacked by you at Youngstown, should Maj.-General Riall's movements fail in deterring him from doing it, Capt. Dobbs has been requested to station one or more of the vessels of war in such a manner as to command the passage, and if possible destroy the enemy's boats. The destruction of their boats, you will be aware, is an object of the greatest possible importance. In event of your gaining the guns and being enabled to make use of them, the artillery officers must be instructed to keep this object in view. Capt. Dobbs will land a party of 30 or 40 marines to assist in the attack. As Lieut.-Gen. Drummond is going over to Fort George, you will receive from him verbally such further instructions as he may consider necessary, but should anything prevent his reaching Niagara to-morrow, the attack is not on that account to be deferred, should the 89th and 104th flank companies have arrived, and should no circumstances (connected with the enemy's force, position, or state of preparation,) with which Lieut.-General Drummond is unacquainted render it expedient in your judgment to postpone it until you can have further communication with him or with Maj.-General Riall. Two rockets thrown up two hours before you mean to attack will be seen and understood by Maj.-General Riall, one rocket fired subsequently will annul the former signal. To avoid creating suspicion it is desirable these signals should be made from Fort George or Missassauga.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

J. Harvey,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

Gen. Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

York, 23rd July, 1814.

Sir,—On my arrival late last evening at this post, I was honored with Your Excellency's despatch of the 15th inst., acquainting me that the *Leopard*, with the left wing of the 4th Batt. of the Royals, has been wrecked on the island of Anticosti. It is at the same time most consoling that the troops and crew are saved.

I have recommended Sir James Yeo, in consequence of the necessity he is under of invaliding a number of his seamen, to apply for the crew of the *Leopard*. The two brigs, the *Star* and *Charwell*, got up in safety to this place with their cargoes, which has, in a great measure, assisted us in our straitened circumstances as regards

provisions, tho' even this additional supply is by no means adequate to the necessary consumption. Two brigades of batteaux are on their way up loaded with provisions, which, if they arrive in safety, will still further relieve us, tho' even then our supply will be very far from sufficient; I have, therefore, been under the necessity of ordering all the women belonging to the Right Division (beyond 3a company) to go down to the Lower Province, with a view of decreasing as much as possible the issues. The Sedentary Militia have been for some time called for service to this post, but I find it absolutely impracticable to keep them any longer, as the whole produce of the neighboring country is in the greatest danger of being lost. I enclose an application made to me on this head, which will clearly show Your Excellency the urgency of the case.

I am very glad to find that Maj.-General Conran and several officers of the Royal Scots are on their way up, as their services are particularly required.

The effective part of the 89th Regt., Your Excellency will perceive by the enclosed copies of letters to Maj.-Gen. Riall and Lieut.-Col. Tucker, will, in consequence of arrangements I have found it necessary to make, be sent across this evening to Fort Niagara in the brigs *Star* and *Charwell*, and to-morrow I shall likewise cross in one of the schooners which are expected in to-night for the purpose. As soon as the troops moving on Kingston arrive at that place I propose ordering up the 82nd Regt., which, I beg leave to observe to Your Excellency, will leave that important post in a state to be still further strengthened.

I am fully persuaded that Your Excellency will afford me every assistance in the very great difficulties I have to encounter, and I cannot but remark that it will require every exertion to overcome them.

P. S.—Since closing the above, Lieut. Radcliffe of the *Magnet* has come over from Niagara, which he left early this morning. He brings information that the enemy have retired from their position at McFarlane's and re-occupied Queenston Heights.

Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.

H. Q., QUEENSTON, July 22nd, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the 20th the army moved and encamped in the rear of Fort George. General Scott with the van had some skirmishing before the main body came up, but as the enemy kept close to their works nothing important occurred. No force was left in our rear, the heights were abandoned to the enemy, and we did hope that the movement would have induced him to re-occupy them

or close in nearer to us, so as to bring on an engagement out of his works; in this we were disappointed. The army returned to-day and found a body of militia and a few regulars in and about the heights. Porter pursued them with his command and a few regulars, and was so fortunate as to come up with and capture seven officers and ten privates—they will be sent to Greenbush.

Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.

H. Q., CHIPPAWA, July 25, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the 23d inst. I received a letter by express from General Gaines, advising me that on the 20th the heavy guns that I had ordered from the harbor to enable me to operate against Forts George and Niagara were blockaded in that port, together with the rifle regiment I had ordered up with them. I had ordered these guns and troops in boats, provided the Commodore should not deem it proper or prudent to convey them in his fleet, not doubting but that he would have been upon the lakes for their protection and that the enemy would have been driven into port or captured. As General Gaines informed me that the Commodore was confined to his bed with a fever, and as he did not know when the fleet would sail or when the guns and forces which I had been expecting would even leave Sackett's Harbor, I have thought proper to change my position with a view to other objects. You know how greatly I am disappointed, and therefore I will not dwell on that painful subject, and you can best perceive how much has been lost by delay and the command of Lake Ontario being with the enemy, reliances being placed upon a different state of things. The Indians all left me some time since; it is said they will return, but this you will perceive depends upon circumstances. The reinforcements ordered from the west have not arrived.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS, 27th July, 1814.

SIR,—I embarked on board His Majesty's schooner *Netley* at York on Sunday evening, the 24th instant, and reached Niagara at daybreak the following morning. Finding from Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker that Major-General Riall was supposed to be moving towards the Falls of Niagara to support the advance of his division, which he had pushed on to that place on the preceding evening, I ordered Lieut.-Colonel Morrison, with the 89th Regiment and a detachment of the Royals and Kings, drawn from Forts George and Missassauga, to proceed to the same point, in order that with the united force I might act against the enemy (posted at

Street's Creek, with his advance at Chippawa,) on my arrival, if it should be found expedient. I ordered Lieut.-Colonel Tucker at the same time to proceed on the right bank of the river with three hundred of the 41st, and about two hundred of the Royal Scots, and a body of Indian warriors, supported (on the river) by a party of armed seamen under Captain Dobbs, Royal Navy. The object of this movement was to disperse or capture a body of the enemy which was encamped at Lewiston. Some unavoidable delay having occurred in the march of the troops up the right bank, the enemy had moved off previous to Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker's arrival. I have to express myself satisfied with the exertions of that officer.

Having refreshed the troops at Queenston, and having brought across the 41st, Royals, and Indians, I sent back the 41st and 100th Regiments to form the garrisons of the Forts George, Mississaga and Niagara, under Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker, and moved with the 89th and detachments of the Royals and King's and Light Company of the 41st, in all about 800 men, to join Major-General Riall's division at the Falls.

When arrived within a few miles of that position, I met a report from Major-General Riall that the enemy was advancing in great force. I immediately pushed on and joined the head of Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison's column just as it reached the road leading towards the Beaver Dam, over the summit of the hill at Lundy's Lane. Instead of the whole of Major-General Riall's division, which I expected to have found occupying this position, I found it almost in the occupation of the enemy, whose columns were within 600 yards of the top of the hill and the surrounding woods filled with his light troops. The advance of Major-General Riall's division, consisting of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Incorporated Militia, having commenced their retreat, I countermanded these corps and formed the 89th Regiment and Royal Scots detachments and 41st Light Company in the rear of the hill, their left resting on the great road; my two twenty-four pounder brass field guns a little advanced in front of the centre on the summit of the hill; the Glengarry Light Infantry on the right; the battalion of Incorporated Militia and the detachment of the King's Regiment on the left of the great road; the squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons in rear of the left on the road. I had scarcely completed this formation when the whole front was warmly and closely engaged. The enemy's principal efforts were directed against our left and centre. After repeated attacks the troops on the left were partially forced back, and the enemy gained a momentary possession of the road. This gave him, however, no material advantage, as the troops which had been forced back formed in the rear of the

89th Regiment, fronting the road and securing the flank. It was during this short interval that Major-General Riall, having received a severe wound, was intercepted as he was passing to the rear by a party of the enemy's cavalry and made prisoner. In the centre the repeated and determined attacks of the enemy were met by the 89th Regiment, the detachments of the Royals and King's and the light company of the 41st, with the most perfect steadiness and intrepid gallantry, and the enemy was constantly repulsed with very heavy loss. In so determined a manner were these attacks directed against our guns that our artillerymen were bayoneted by the enemy in the act of loading, and the muzzles of the enemy's guns were advanced within a few yards of ours. The darkness of the night during this extraordinary conflict occasioned several uncommon incidents. Our troops having for a moment been pushed back, some of our guns remained for a few minutes in the enemy's hands; they were, however, not only quickly recovered, but the two pieces, a six-pounder and a five and a half-inch howitzer, which the enemy had brought up, were captured by us, together with several tumbrils, and in limbering up our guns at one period one of the enemy's six-pounders was put by a mistake upon a limber of ours, and one of our six-pounders limbered on his, by which means the pieces were exchanged, and thus, though we captured two of his guns, yet as he obtained one of ours we have gained only one gun.

About nine o'clock (the action having commenced at six) there was a short intermission of firing, during which the enemy was employed in bringing up the whole of his remaining force, and he shortly after renewed his attack, but was everywhere repulsed with equal gallantry and success. About this period the remainder of Major-General Riall's division, which had been ordered to retire on the advance of the enemy, consisting of the 103d Regiment, under Colonel Scott, the headquarter division of the 8th (or King's,) flank companies, 104th, and some detachments of militia, under Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton, inspecting field officer, joined the troops engaged; and I placed them in a second line, with the exception of the Royal Scots and flank companies, 104th, with which I prolonged my front line on the right, where I was apprehensive of the enemy's outflanking me. The enemy's efforts to carry the hill were continued until about midnight, when he had suffered so severely from the superior steadiness and discipline of His Majesty's troops that he gave up the contest and retreated with great precipitation to his camp beyond the Chippawa. On the following day he abandoned his camp, threw the greatest part of his baggage, camp equipage, and provisions into the rapids, and having set fire to Street's Mills

and destroyed the bridge at Chippawa, continued his retreat in great disorder towards Fort Erie. My light troops, cavalry, and Indians are detached in pursuit and to harass his retreat, which, I doubt not, he will continue until he reaches his own shore.

The loss sustained by the enemy in this severe action cannot be estimated at less than fifteen hundred men, including several hundreds of prisoners left in our hands. His two commanding generals, Brown and Scott, are said to be wounded; his whole force, which has never been rated at less than five thousand, having been engaged. Enclosed I have the honor to transmit a return of our loss, which has been very considerable. The number of troops under my command did not, for the first three hours, exceed sixteen hundred men; the addition of the troops under Colonel Scott did not increase it to more than two thousand eight hundred, of every description.

A very difficult but at the same time a most gratifying duty remains, that of endeavoring to do justice to the merits of the officers and soldiers by whose valor and discipline this important success has been obtained. I was very early in the action deprived of the services of Major-General Riall, who, I regret to learn, has suffered the amputation of his arm in the enemy's possession; his bravery, zeal, and activity have always been conspicuous.

To Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, Deputy-Adjutant-General, I am so deeply indebted for his valuable assistance previous to as well as his able and energetic exertions during this severe contest, that I feel myself called upon to point Your Excellency's attention to the distinguished merits of this highly deserving officer, whose services have been particularly conspicuous in every affair that has taken place since his arrival in this province. The zeal and intelligence displayed by Major Glegg, Assistant-Adjutant-General, deserve my warmest approbation. I much regret the loss of a very intelligent and promising young officer, Lieutenant Moorsom, 104th Regiment, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, who was killed towards the close of the action. The active exertions of Captain Elliot, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, of whose gallantry and conduct I had occasion on two former instances to remark, were conspicuous. Major Maule and Lieutenant Le Breton, of Quartermaster-General's department, were extremely useful to me; the latter was severely wounded.

Amongst the officers from whose active exertions I derived the greatest assistance, I cannot omit to mention my aides-de-camp, Captains Jervois and Loring, and Captain Holland, aide-de-camp to Major-General Riall; Captain Loring was unfortunately taken

prisoner by some of the enemy's dragoons, whilst in the execution of an order.

In reviewing the action from its commencement, the first object which presents itself is the steadiness and good countenance of the squadron of 19th Light Dragoons, under Major Lisle, and the very creditable and excellent defence made by the Incorporated Militia battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Robinson, who was dangerously wounded, and a detachment of the 8th (King's) Regiment, under Captain Campbell. Major Kerby succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson in the command of the Incorporated Militia battalion and continued very gallantly to direct its efforts; this battalion has only been organized a few months, and much to the credit of Captain Robinson of the King's Regiment (Provincial Lieutenant-Colonel) has attained a highly respectable degree of discipline.

In the reiterated and determined attacks which the enemy made upon our centre for the purpose of gaining at once the crest of the position and our guns, the steadiness and intrepidity displayed by the troops allotted for the defence of that post were never surpassed; they consisted of the 89th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison, and, after the Lieutenant-Colonel had been obliged to retire from the field by a severe wound, by Major Clifford; a detachment of the Royal Scots under Lieut. Hemphill, and after he was killed Lieut. Fraser; a detachment of the 8th (or King's) under Captain Campbell; light company, 41st Regiment, under Captain Glew, with some detachments of militia under Lieutenant-Colonel Parry, 103rd Regiment. These troops repeatedly, when hard pressed, formed round the colours of the 89th Regiment, and invariably repulsed the attacks made against them. On the right the steadiness and good countenance of the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots, under Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, in some very trying moments excited my admiration. The King's Regiment, (1st Battalion,) under Major Evans, behaved with great gallantry and firmness, as did the light company of the Royals, detached under Captain Stewart; the Grenadiers of the 103rd, detached under Captain Browne; and the flank companies of the 104th under Captain Leonard. The Glengarry Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, displayed most valuable qualities as light troops. Colonel Scott, Major Smelt, and the officers of the 103rd deserve credit for their exertions in rallying that regiment after it had been thrown into momentary disorder. Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer, directed the advance with great intelligence, and Lieutenant-Colonel Drummond, having gone forward with my permission early in the day, made himself actively useful in different parts of the field under my direction. These

officers are entitled to my best thanks, as is Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, Inspecting Field Officer, for his exertions after his arrival with the troops under Colonel Scott.

The field artillery so long as there was light was well served. The credit of its efficient state is due to Captain Mackonachie, who has charge of it since his arrival with this division. Captain McLauchlan, has charge of the batteries at Fort Missassaga, volunteered his services in the field on this occasion; he was severely wounded. Lieutenant Tomkins deserves much credit for the way in which the two brass 24-pounders, of which he had charge, were served, as does Sergeant Austin of the rocket company, who directed the Congreve rockets, which did much execution. The zeal, loyalty and bravery, with which the militia of this part of the province have come forward to co-operate with His Majesty's troops in the expulsion of the enemy, and their conspicuous gallantry in this and the action of the 4th, claim my warmest thanks.

I cannot conclude this despatch without recommending in the strongest terms the following officers, whose conduct during the late operations has called for marked approbation, and I am induced to hope Your Excellency will be pleased to submit their names for promotion to the most favorable consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, viz: Captain Jervois, my aide-de-camp; Captain Robinson, 8th (King's) Regiment, (Provincial Lieutenant-Colonel) commanding the Incorporated Militia; Captain Elliot, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General; Captain Holland, aide-de-camp to Major-General Riall, and Captain Glew, 41st Regiment.

This despatch will be delivered to you by Captain Jervois, my aide-de-camp, who is fully competent to give Your Excellency any further information you may require.

District General Order.

Headquarters, Falls of Niagara, 26th July, 1814.

Lieutenant-General Drummond offers his sincerest and warmest thanks to the troops and militia engaged yesterday, for their exemplary steadiness, gallantry and discipline in repulsing all the efforts of a numerous and determined enemy to carry the position of Lundy's Lane, near the Falls of Niagara. Their exertions have been crowned with complete success by the defeat of the enemy, and his retreat to the position of Chippawa with the loss of two of his guns and an immense number of killed and wounded, and several hundred prisoners. When all have behaved nobly it is unnecessary to hold up particular instances of merit in corps or individuals. The Lieut.-General cannot, however, refrain from ex-

pressing in the strongest manner his admiration of the gallantry and steadiness of the 89th Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Morrison and Major Clifford, who ably and gallantly supplied the Lieut.-Colonel's place after he was wounded; 41st Light Company under Captain Glew, and detachment of the 8th or King's Regiment under Captain Campbell, and Royals acting with them; also a party of Incorporated Militia, by whom the brunt of the action was for a considerable time sustained, and whose loss has been severe. To the advance under Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, consisting of the Glengarry Light Infantry under Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, a small party of the 104th under Lieut.-Colonel Drummond, the Incorporated Militia under Lieut.-Colonel Robinson, and detachments from the 1st, 2d, 4th and 5th Lincoln Militia and 2d York under Lieut.-Colonel Parry, the Lieut.-General offers his warmest thanks. They are also due to the troops which arrived under Colonel Scott during the action, viz.: The 1st or Royal Scots under Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, 8th or King's under Major Evans, 103d Regiment under Colonel Scott, flank companies, 104th, with the Norfolk, Oxford, Kent and Essex Rangers and Middlesex Militia, under Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton.

The admirable steadiness and good conduct of the 19th Light Dragoons, under Major Lisle, and of the detachment of Royal Artillery, under Captain MacLauchlan, are entitled to particular praise; the latter officer having been badly wounded, the command of the artillery devolved to Captain Mackonochie, with whose gallantry and exertions Lieut.-General Drummond was highly pleased. Sergeant Austin, who directed the firing of the Congreve Rockets, deserves very great credit. To the officers of the general and of his own personal staff, and to Captain Holland, aide-de-camp to Major-General Riall, Lieut.-General Drummond feels himself greatly indebted for the assistance they afforded him.

He has to lament being deprived (by a wound early in the action) of the services of Major-General Riall, who was most unfortunately made prisoner, whilst returning from the field, by a party of the enemy's cavalry, who had a momentary possession of the road. Lieut.-General Drummond has also to regret the wounds which have deprived the corps of the services of Lieut.-Colonel Morrison, 89th Regiment, and Lieut.-Colonel Robinson of the Incorporated Militia. In the fall of Lieut. Moorsom, serving as Deputy-Asst.-Adjutant-General, the service has lost a gallant, intelligent and meritorious young officer.

The Lieut.-General and President has great pleasure in dismissing to their homes the whole of the Sedentary Militia, who have so handsomely come forward on the occasion, confident that

on any future emergency their loyalty will be again equally conspicuous. He will perform a grateful duty in representing to His Majesty's government the zeal, bravery, and alacrity with which the militia have co-operated with His Majesty's troops.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,
Deputy-Adjt.-General.

Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing in the Action at Lundy's Lane, on the 25th July, 1814.

Staff—one officer killed, four officers wounded, one officer missing.

19th Dragoons—two rank and file wounded, one private missing.

Royal Engineers—one subaltern missing.

Royal Artillery—four rank and file killed, one captain, twelve rank and file wounded; seven privates missing.

Royal Marine Artillery—three rank and file wounded, two rank and file missing.

1st Royal Scots—one subaltern, 15 privates, killed; three officers, 112 non-commissioned officers and men, wounded; two officers and 39 non-commissioned officers and men missing.

8th, or King's—twelve non-commissioned officers and men killed, three officers and 57 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, one officer and twelve non-commissioned officers and men missing.

41st Regt.—three privates killed, 34 non-commissioned officers and men wounded.

89th Regt.—two officers, 27 non-commissioned officers and men, killed: eleven officers and 177 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, 37 non-commissioned officers and men missing.

103d Regt.—six privates killed, one officer and 46 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, three officers and four non-commissioned officers and men missing.

104th Regt.—one private killed, five privates missing.

Glengarry Light Infantry—four privates killed, one officer, 30 non-commissioned officers and men, wounded: one officer and 21 non-commissioned officers and men missing.

Incorporated Militia—one officer and six men killed, four officers and 39 non-commissioned officers and men wounded; 75 non-commissioned officers and men missing: three officers and 14 men prisoners.

Provincial Light Dragoons—two rank and file wounded, one captain missing.

1st Lincoln Militia—one private killed.
2d do do —one private wounded.
4th do do —two officers, three men wounded; two officers missing.
5th Lincoln Militia—one officer and three men wounded.
2d York Militia—three officers and six men wounded.

Officers Killed.

General Staff—Lieut. Moorsom, 104th Regt., Deputy-Assist.-Adjt.-General.
1st, or Royal Scots—Lieut. Hemphill.
89th Regt., 2d Battn.—Captain Spunner, Lieut. Latham.
Incorporated Militia—Ensign Campbell.

Officers Wounded.

General Staff—Lieut.-General Drummond, severely, not dangerously; Major-General Riall, do., and prisoner; Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, slightly; Lieut. Le Breton, severely.
Royal Artillery—Capt. McLauchlan, dangerously.
1st, or Royal Scots—Capt. Brereton, slightly; Lieut. Haswell, severely, not dangerously; Lieut. D. Fraser, do., do., and missing.
1st Battn., 8th or King's—Lieut. Noel and Ensign Swayne, slightly; Ensign MacDonald, severely.
89th Regt.—Lieut.-Colonel Morrison, Lieuts. Sanderson, Street, Pierce, Taylor, Lloyd and Miles, severely, not dangerously; Lieut. Redmond and Adjutant Hopper, slightly; Lieut. Gray and Ensign Saunders, dangerously.
103d Regt.—Lieut. Langhorne, slightly.
Glengarry Light Infantry—Lieut. R. Kerr, slightly.
Incorporated Militia—Lieut.-Col. Robinson, dangerously; Captain Fraser, severely; Capt. Washburn, slightly; Captain McDonald, severely, left arm amputated; Lieut.-MacDougall, mortally; Lieut. Ruttan and Ensign McDonald, severely; Lieut. Hamilton, slightly.
2d Lincoln Militia—Adjutant Thompson, slightly.
4th Lincoln Militia—Captain H. Nelles and Ensign Kennedy, slightly.
5th Lincoln Militia—Major Hatt, severely.
2d York Militia—Major Simons, severely; Captain Rockman, Lieuts. Orrfield and Smith, severely.

Officers Missing.

Royal Engineers—Lieut. Yule.
1st, or Royal Scots—Lieuts. Clyne and Lamont, supposed to be prisoners.
8th, or King's Regt.—Quartermaster Kirnan.
4th Lincoln Militia—Capt. H. Nelles and Quartermaster Ball.

Officers Prisoners.

General Staff—Captain Loring, A. D. C. to Lieut.-General Drummond.

89th Regt.—Capt. Gore.

103d Regt.—Capt. Brown, Lieut. Montgomery (wounded,) and Ensign Lyner.

Glengarry Light Infantry—Ensign Robins.

Incorporated Militia—Captain McLean, Ensign Wharf and Quartermaster Thompson.

Provincial Light Dragoons—Capt. Merritt.

Total, including officers—killed, 84; wounded, 559; missing 193; prisoners, 42.

In consequence of the great use made by the enemy of buck-shot, many of the wounds have proved slight.

Captain L. Austin, A. D. C. to Major-General Brown, to the Secretary of War.

H. Q., BUFFALO, 29th July, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor of addressing you by desire of Gen. Brown, who is now confined by wounds received in a severe and desperate engagement with the enemy on the afternoon and night of the 25th inst.

Our army had fallen back to Chippawa. The enemy collecting every regiment from Burlington and York, and meeting with no opposition on Lake Ontario, transported by water troops to Fort George from Kingston and even Prescott, which enabled them to bring against us a force vastly superior, under command of Lieut.-Gen. Drummond and Maj.-Gen. Riall. They were met by us near the Falls of Niagara, where a most severe conflict ensued; the enemy disputed the ground with resolution, yet were driven from every position they attempted to hold. We stormed his batteries directly in front and took possession of all his artillery; notwithstanding his immense superiority both in numbers and position, he was completely defeated, and our troops remained on the battle ground without any interruption. As, however, both Generals Brown and Scott had received severe wounds—almost every chief of battalion disabled, and our men quite exhausted, it was thought prudent to retire to our encampment, which was done in good order without any molestation from the enemy—our wounded having been first removed.

Maj.-Gen. Riall, with the aide-de-camp of Gen. Drummond and about twenty other officers, are taken prisoners.

The loss on both sides is immense, but no account has been yet

returned. The aide and brigade major of Gen. Scott are both severely wounded, and Capt. Spencer, an aide of Gen. Brown, most probably dead, having received two balls through his body. Both Generals Brown and Scott are on this side confined by their wounds. Gen. Ripley commands on the other. General Brown received his wounds at the same instant during a late part of the action, but still continued to keep his horse until exhausted by loss of blood—this, probably, has rendered his wounds more painful than they would otherwise have been.

Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.

BUFFALO, 7th August, 1814.

SIR,—Confined as I was and have been since the last engagement with the enemy, I fear that the account I am about to give may be less full and satisfactory than under other circumstances it might have been made. I particularly fear that the conduct of the gallant men it was my fortune to lead will not be noticed in a way due to their fame and the honor of our country.

You are already apprised that the army had, on the 25th ult., taken a position at Chippawa. About noon of that day Col. Swift, who was posted at Lewiston, apprised me by express that the enemy had appeared in considerable force in Queenston and on its heights; that four of the enemy's fleet had arrived during the preceding night and were then lying near Fort Niagara, and that a number of the enemy's boats were in view moving up the Straight. Within a few moments after this intelligence had been received, I was further informed by Captain Denman of the Quartermaster's Department that the enemy was landing at Lewiston, and that our baggage and stores at Schlosser and on their way thither were in danger of immediate capture. It is proper here to mention that having received advices as late as the 20th from Gen. Gaines that our fleet was then in port and the Commodore sick, we ceased to look for co-operation from that quarter, and determined to disencumber ourselves of baggage and march directly for Burlington Heights. To mask this intention and to draw from Schlosser a small supply of provisions, I fell back upon Chippawa. As this arrangement, under the increased force of the enemy, left much at hazard on our side of the Niagara, and as it appeared by the before mentioned information that the enemy was about to avail himself of it, I conceived the most effectual method of recalling him from this object was to put myself in motion towards Queenston. Gen. Scott with the 1st Brigade, Towson's Artillery, and all the dragoons and mounted men, were accordingly put in march on the road lead-

ing thither, with orders to report if the enemy appeared—then to call for assistance if necessary.

On the General's arrival at the Falls he learned that the enemy was in force directly in his front, narrow pieces of woods alone intercepting his view of them. Waiting only to give this information, he advanced upon them: by the time Assistant-Adj. Jones had delivered his message, the action began; and before the remaining part of the division had crossed the Chippawa, it had become close and general between the advanced corps. Though Gen. Ripley with the second brigade, Major Hindman with the corps of artillery, and Gen. Porter at the head of his command, had respectively pressed forward with ardor, it was not less than an hour before they were brought to sustain Gen. Scott, during which time his command most skilfully and gallantly maintained the conflict. Upon my arrival, I found that the General had passed the wood and engaged the enemy on the Queenston road and on the ground to the left of it with the 9th, 11th and 22d Regiments, with Towson's Artillery—the 25th had been thrown to the right to be governed by circumstances. Apprehending that these corps were much exhausted, and knowing that they had suffered severely, I determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage Gen. Scott and hold his brigade in reserve; orders were accordingly given to General Ripley. The enemy's artillery at this moment occupied a hill which gave him great advantages and was the key to the whole position: it was supported by a line of infantry. To secure the victory it was necessary to carry this artillery and seize the height. This duty was assigned to Col. Miller, while to favor its execution the 1st Regiment, under the command of Col. Nicholas, was directed to menace and amuse the infantry. To my great mortification this regiment, after a discharge or two, gave way and retreated some distance before it could be rallied, though it is believed the officers of the regiment exerted themselves to shorten this distance. In the meantime Col. Miller, without regard to this occurrence, advanced steadily and gallantly to his object, and carried the height and the cannon. Gen. Ripley brought up the 23d (which had also faltered) to his support, and the enemy disappeared from before them. The 1st Regiment was now brought into line on the left of the 21st and the detachments of the 17th and 19th, Gen. Porter occupying with his command the extreme left—about the time Col. Miller carried the enemy's cannon.

The 25th Regiment, under Major Jessup, was engaged in a more obstinate contest with all that remained to dispute with us the field of battle. The Major, as has been already stated, had been ordered by General Scott at the commencement of the action to

take ground to the right; he had succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank—had captured (by a detachment under Captain Ketchum) Gen. Riall and sundry other officers—and showed himself again in a blaze of fire, which defeated or destroyed a very superior force of the enemy. He was ordered to form on the right of 22d Regiment. The enemy rallying his forces and, as is believed, having received reinforcements, now attempted to drive us from our position and regain his artillery; our line was unshaken and the enemy repulsed. Two other attempts having the same object had the same issue. Gen. Scott was again engaged in repelling the former of these, and the last I saw of him on the field of battle he was near the head of his column, and giving to its march a direction that would have placed him on the enemy's right. It was with great pleasure I saw the good order and intrepidity of Gen. Porter's volunteers from the moment of arrival; but during the last charge of the enemy those qualities were conspicuous—stimulated by the example set them by their gallant leader, by Major Wood of the Pennsylvania corps, by Col. Dobbin of New York, and by their officers generally—they precipitated themselves upon the enemy's line and made all the prisoners which were taken at this point of the action.

Having been for some time wounded, and being a good deal exhausted by loss of blood, it became my wish to devolve the command on Gen. Scott and retire from the field, but on inquiry I had the misfortune to learn that he was disabled by wounds. I therefore kept my post, and had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy's last effort repulsed. I now consigned the command to General Ripley.

While retiring from the field I saw and felt that the victory was complete on our part if proper measures were promptly adopted to secure it. The exhaustion of the men was, however, such as made some refreshment necessary; they particularly required water—I was myself extremely sensible of the want of this necessary article. I therefore believed it proper that Gen. Ripley and the troops should return to camp after bringing off the dead, the wounded and the artillery; and in this I saw no difficulty, as the enemy had entirely ceased to act. Within an hour after my arrival in camp I was informed that Gen. Ripley had returned without annoyance and in good order. I now sent for him, and after giving him my reasons for the measure I was about to adopt, ordered him to put the troops in the very best possible condition; to give to them the necessary refreshment; to take with him the picquets and camp guards and every other description of force; to put himself on the field of battle as the day dawned, and there to meet and beat the enemy if he appeared. To this order he made no

objection and I relied upon its execution; it was not executed. I feel most sensibly how inadequate are my powers in speaking of the troops to do justice either to their merits or to my own sense of them—under able direction they might have done more and better.

From the preceding detail you have new evidence of the distinguished gallantry of Generals Scott and Porter, of Col. Miller and Major Jessup.

Of the 1st Brigade, the chief with his aide-de-camp, Worth, his major of brigade, Smith, and every commander of battalion, were wounded. The 2d Brigade suffered less, but as a brigade their conduct entitled them to the applause of their country. After the enemy's strong position had been carried by the 21st and detachments of the 17th and 19th, the 1st and 23d assumed a new character—they could not again be shaken or dismayed. Major McFarland of the latter fell nobly at the head of his battalion. Under the command of Gen. Porter the Militia Volunteers of Pennsylvania and New York stood undismayed amidst the hottest fire, and repulsed the veterans opposed to them. The Canadian Volunteers, commanded by Col. Wilcocks, are reported by General Porter as having merited and received his approbation. The corps of artillery commanded by Major Hindman behaved with its usual gallantry. Capt. Towson's battery attached to the 1st Brigade was the first and the last engaged, and during the whole conflict maintained that high character which they had previously won by their skill and valor. Captains Biddle and Ritchie were both wounded early in the action, but refused to quit the field; the latter declared that he would never leave his piece, and true to his engagement fell by its side covered with wounds.

The staff of the army had its peculiar merit and distinction. Col. Gardner, Adj.-Gen., though ill, was on horseback and did all in his power; his assistant, Major Jones, was very active and useful; my gallant aids-de-camp, Austin and Spencer, had many and critical duties to perform, in the discharge of which the latter fell. I shall ever think of this young man with pride and regret—regret that his career has been so short; pride that it has been so distinguished. The engineers, McRea and Wood, were greatly distinguished on this day, and their high military talents exerted with great effect; they were much under my eye and near my person, and to their assistance a great deal is fairly to be ascribed. I most earnestly recommend them as worthy of the highest trust and confidence.

The staff of Generals Ripley and Porter discovered great zeal

and attention to duty. Lieut. E. B. Randolph of the 20th is entitled to notice; his courage was conspicuous.

I enclose a return of our loss. Those noted as missing may generally be numbered with the dead. The enemy had but little opportunity of making prisoners.

Return of prisoners taken from the enemy in the above action, viz.: 1 Major-General (Riall,) 1 aid (to Lt.-Gen. Drummond,) 6 captains, 11 subalterns, 150 rank and file—total, 169.

AZ. ORNE,
Assist. Insp. Gen.

Major-Gen. Peter B. Porter to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

FORT ERIE, U. C., July 29, 1814.

SIR,—Our Canadian campaign seems drawing to a close, or must, at any rate, be suspended for want of reinforcements. After a month spent in marching and countermarching we have got back to the point from which we set out, much impaired in strength but I hope not disheartened.

Besides almost daily skirmishing we have had two severe general engagements. In the first of these we were *lucky*, (I use this term because so far as depended on any previous arrangements or knowledge of the commanding officer, both engagements were wholly accidental and unexpected,) and obtained a splendid victory, if not with a trifling yet a very disproportionate loss. In the last we were most unlucky both as to time and place, the action having been commenced three miles from camp about sundown, with one-third of our army against a greatly superior force occupying a commanding position. But no disadvantage of time, place or circumstance, could resist the desperate bravery of the American soldiery.

The enemy's battery of seven pieces of artillery was carried by a charge, his commanding position occupied and four desperate and deliberate attempts to regain it by desperate charges successfully repelled. Our victory was complete, but, alas, this victory gained by exhibitions of bravery never surpassed in this country, was converted into a defeat by a precipitate retreat, leaving the dead, the wounded and captured artillery, and our hard earned honor to the enemy. I entered my remonstrance against this measure, and I confess at the time I almost wished that fate had swept another General from the combat. But it is certain that no Militia General is to gain any military fame while united to a regular force and commanded by their officers.

The purpose of this letter is to request that I may be permitted to retire from the service, for in truth the volunteer force is is now so small as not to warrant a Brigadier's command. You well know how greatly my expectations have been disappointed in relation to this command. I expected that the force would amount to something near what was authorized, that it would be supplied with the means enabling it to live, march and fight, that in point of numbers it would be respectable and form so large a part of the army as to enable it to assert its equal rights and privileges with the regular troops, and not be what an inferior militia force always will be, the tools and drudges of the regular troops. As regarded myself I did expect, too, that I would not be lower than second in command, and that if the fortune of war should dispose of the first, I might take my chance to fill his place. But all hopes of such an event have vanished, for altho' I am now second in command, another Brigadier has been sent for to Sackett's Harbor. In short, I have been brigadiered till I am quite satisfied.

Nothing but the shame of abandoning a measure, which under mistaken auspices I had engaged and made some progress in, would have induced me to take the field with a ragged, unprovided and undisciplined force. I have done with them all I could, and altho' I may not retire with much credit, I hope I shall not go home wholly disgraced.

I have just seen General Brown's report of the battle of Chippawa. Altho' he has been very civil to me personally by giving me credit for a quality which in the sense in which it is commonly used I am sure I do not possess, he has done great injustice to the Pennsylvania Volunteers and Indians, who fought as bravely and in proportion to their numbers did double the execution of any other troops that day. I participated in all their disgrace, and the only unpleasant feeling I have on the business of that day is that I rallied and led a scattered line, (formed to scour the woods and not to fight a regular force,) exhausted by the fatigue of pursuit a *second* time, against a compact line of British regular troops perfectly fresh, and this when we were more than half a mile in advance and unsupported by our regular troops, by which I lost several valuable officers. General Brown does not hesitate to acknowledge that on the night of the 25th the volunteers fought *at least* as well as the regulars.

Do not understand me as intending to cast a heavy censure on General Ripley for the retreat from Lundy's Lane. He is a very clever fellow, and besides having been in opinion opposed to General Brown's plan of operations, he on that night, I am told by him, received a positive order from General Brown at Chippawa to

retire. Had I, however, been in his situation I should, without a moment's hesitation, have disobeyed the order, for he commanded the battle and was answerable for its issue, and ought not to have been dictated to by a wounded man four miles from the scene of action.

Second Sheet.

In the report of the battle of the 25th, the volunteers will probably be put down as one of the three brigades which were engaged, and as our number of killed, wounded and missing will, of course, be considerably less than that of other brigades, it will seem that we were cowardly and did not do our duty, when, in fact, the reverse is the case. Our brigade, as I stated before, is the servant of the army. 250 men were detached and acting under Colonel Swift across the river, one company was at Buffalo, part of company at Erie (Fort Erie,) and two companies during the battle were ordered to remain at Chippawa to protect the camp, so that in fact we carried less than 300 men into the field, and detachments were made again to send off prisoners. But in proportion to the numbers engaged we lost more than any other corps, and I believe, small as we were, we actually lost more officers killed than either of the other brigades. Our whole loss was 65. I mention this not to boast, but to show how unequally the policy observed towards volunteers bears upon them.

Major-General Brown to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

BUFFALO, 1st August, 1814.

SIR,—Will it not be possible for you to increase General Porter's command, and that promptly. I have found General Porter a brave and efficient officer. In the midst of the greatest danger I have found his mind cool and collected, and his judgment to be relied upon. These are rare qualifications, and therefore it is that I desire all the militia force may be continued under his command.

It does appear to me to be an object of great material importance to *this State* that the enemy should be driven out of the Peninsula, and a line drawn between him and his savage allies to extend from near York or Burlington if it cannot be pressed farther down. If you could by any means bring out a force of from three to four thousand militia to operate with my gallant little army, I do not doubt but that the object could be effected.

It is in vain for the people of this country to attempt to shrink from the war in which they are engaged: if they do not arm and exert themselves at a distance from their farms they will soon find the war brought to their firesides.

This State has suffered in reputation this war; its militia have done nothing, or but little, and that, too, after the State had been for a long time invaded.

Being resolved not to order my army out of Canada under existing circumstances without further instructions from the War Department, I have deemed it proper to call upon Major-General Hall for a thousand militia for the defence of the frontier. I hope you will approve the measure, but if you do I am not sure the force will be found unless stronger and more military measures are adopted than have hitherto been, as I find the inhabitants of this frontier more disposed to skulk from the danger which threatens them than to arm in defence of their country and her rights.

My wounds are very troublesome but not dangerous. I send you the enclosed statement of Dr. Bull for your information, but not for publication. The battle of the 25th, it is believed, will find but few parallels. More desperate fighting has rarely been known. I hope the nation will be satisfied by our conduct—we have endeavored to do our duty.

The official returns are not yet in, but I am informed that I have lost above sixty officers, killed and wounded, among which first, I fear, is my aid-de-camp, Captain Spencer.

Dr. Bull to ———

BUFFALO, 31st July, 1814.

In conversation with Major-General Brown, after dressing his wounds on the evening of the 25th, I understood from him that General Ripley was ordered to move early in morning of the following day to the scene of action of the day preceding for the purpose of burying the dead, securing all the trophies captured, and driving back the enemy should they appear. I did not doubt from the observations of other officers but such a movement would take place agreeably to the order. In consequence I rode to the battle ground about daylight without witnessing the presence of a single British officer or soldier. The dead had not been removed during the night, and such a scene of carnage I never beheld, particularly at Lundy's Lane, red coats and blue and grey were promiscuously intermingled, in many places three deep, and around the hill where the enemy's artillery was carried by Colonel Miller, the carcasses of 60 or 70 horses disfigured the scene. I went forward more than a mile beyond this point and saw no enemy.

E. W. BULL,
Hospital Surgeon, Army, U. S.

Col. James Miller to———

(From the Adjutant-General's Report for New Hampshire, for 1868.)

Fort Erie, July 28, 1814.

On the evening of the 25th instant, at the Falls of the Niagara, we met the enemy and had, I believe, one of the most desperately fought actions ever experienced in America. It continued for more than three hours stubbornly contested on both sides, when about ten o'clock at night we succeeded in driving them from their strong position. Our loss was severe in killed and wounded. I have lost from our regiment in killed, wounded and missing, one hundred and twenty-six. The enemy had got their artillery posted on a height in a very commanding position, where they could rake our columns in any part of the plain, and prevented their advancing. Maj. McRae, the chief engineer, told Gen. Brown he could do no good until that height was carried and those cannon taken or driven from their position. It was then evening, but moonlight. Gen. Brown turned to me and said: "Col. Miller, take your regiment and storm that work and take it." I had short of three hundred men with me, as my regiment had been much weakened by the numerous details made from it during the day. I, however, immediately obeyed the order. We could see all their slow matches and port-fires burning and ready. I did not know what side of the work was the most favorable of approach, but happened to hit upon a very favorable place notwithstanding. We advanced upon the mouths of their pieces of cannon. It happened there was an old rail fence on the side where we approached undiscovered by the enemy, with a small growth of shrubbery by the fence and within less than two rods of the cannon's mouth. I then very cautiously ordered my men to rest across the fence, take good aim, fire, and rush, which was done in style. Not one man at the cannons was left to put fire to them. We got into the centre of their park before they had time to oppose us. A British line was formed and lying in a strong position to protect their artillery. The moment we got to the centre they opened a most destructive fire on us, killed a great many and attempted to charge with their bayonets. We returned the fire so warmly they were compelled to stand. We fought hand to hand for some time, so close that the blaze of our guns crossed each other, but we compelled them to abandon their whole artillery, ammunition, wagons, and all, amounting to seven pieces of elegant brass cannon, one of which was a twenty-four pounder, with eight horses and harnesses, though some of the horses were killed. The British made two more attempts to charge

us at close quarters, both of which we repulsed before I was reinforced, after which the First and Twenty-third Regiments came to my relief; and even after the British charged with their whole line three several times, and after getting within half pistol shot of us, were compelled to give way. I took with my regiment between thirty and forty prisoners while taking and defending the artillery. Lieut. Aaron Bigelow of my regiment was killed; Capt. Burbank and Lieut. Cilley badly wounded, a number of others slightly; Gen. Brown and his aide both dangerously wounded; Gen. Scott and his Brigade-Major, Lieut. Smith, both badly wounded; Gen. Ripley and his aide both shot through the hat; Maj. McFarland killed; Col. Brady badly wounded; Maj. McNeil badly wounded, so he must it is said lose his leg. It is unnecessary for me to enumerate a quarter of our loss, but we have very few officers left for duty. I now command a brigade; Gen. Ripley is Commander-in-chief. I am the only full Colonel, and we have but one Lieutenant-Colonel left to all the regular troops here. We expect reinforcements soon. But I forgot to tell you we were unfortunate about our artillery at last. After Generals Brown, Scott and others were wounded, we were ordered to return back to our camp about three miles, and preparations had not been made for taking off the cannon. It was impossible for me to defend it and make preparations for that too, and it was all left upon the ground except one beautiful brass six-pounder, which is made a present to my regiment in testimony of their distinguished gallantry. . . . We wounded Maj.-Gen. Drummond, took Maj.-Gen. Riall prisoner, with between thirty and forty other officers; how many non-commissioned officers and privates I have not yet learned, as they were sent hastily across the river, but a very considerable number."

From the Pittsfield (Mass.) Sun.

(Reprinted in Niles Register, Vol. 6, p. 413.)

Extract of a letter from Dr. E. L. Allen of the 21st Regiment to his brother in this town, dated Buffalo, 26th July, 1814:

"Last night was fought the most sanguinary action the annals of this country record. General Ripley by the blessing of heaven is safe: a musket shot perforated his hat just by the crown of his head without injury. The 20th, we invested Fort George, their shells and shot did little execution. 22nd, fell back to Queenston Heights, probably on account of the powerful reinforcements arriving from Kingston. 24th, fell back to Chippewa, which is two miles above the Falls. 25th, at noon the enemy sent 500 across the river to Lewiston and destroyed some baggage our sick had just left.

"In the afternoon the enemy advanced towards Chippewa with a powerful force. At six o'clock General Scott was ordered to advance with his brigade and beat them. He was soon reinforced by General Ripley's brigade; they met the enemy in great force below the Falls. They had selected their ground for the night, intending to attack our camp before daylight. The action began just before seven, and an uninterrupted stream of musketry continued till half-past eight, when there was some cessation, the British falling back. It soon began again with some artillery, which, with slight interruption, continued till half-past ten, when there was a charge, and a tremendous stream of fire closed the conflict. Both armies fought with a desperation bordering on madness; neither would yield the palm, but each retired a short distance wearied with fatigue. Such a constant and destructive fire was never before sustained by American troops without falling back.

"The enemy had collected their whole force in the peninsula and were reinforced by the troops from Lord Wellington's army, just landed from Kingston. For two hours the two hostile lines were within twenty yards of each other, and so frequently intermingled that often an officer would order an enemy's platoon. The moon shone bright, but part of our men being dressed like their Glengarian Regiment, caused the deception. They frequently charged, and as often were driven back. Our regiment, under Colonel Miller, was ordered to storm the British battery. We charged and took every piece of the enemy's cannon. We kept possession of the ground and cannon until twelve o'clock at night, when we fell back to camp, distant more than two miles. This was done to secure our camp, which might otherwise have been attacked in the rear. Our horses being most of them killed, and there being no ropes to the pieces, we got off but two or three. The men were so extremely fatigued they could not drag them. We lost one howitzer, the horses being on full gallop towards the enemy to attack them the riders were shot off and the horses ran through the enemy's line. We lost one piece of cannon, which was too much advanced, every man being shot that had charge of it but two. Several of our caissons were blown up by their rockets, which did some injury and deprived our cannon of ammunition. The lines were so near that cannon could not be used with advantage. This morning General Ripley marched out our whole force to the battle ground to bury our dead and secure what wounded were left. The enemy had gotten many who were badly wounded and left on the ground. He marched near their army, but neither were disposed to engage.

We took about 200 non-commissioned officers and privates

prisoners, and 21 officers, including Major-General Riall, who was wounded in the shoulder. They acknowledge Colonel Gordon of the 100th and many other British officers killed, their rank yet unknown. The enemy must have suffered very severely. Our loss is immense, but was not known when I left the army this morning.

Copy of a Letter from an Officer in the Army to his friend in Alexandria, dated Fort Erie, U. C., July 28.

(Niles' Register, Vol. 6, p. 414.)

On the 23rd I found myself so far recovered as to join the army at Queenston Heights, although that part of my foot which was fractured will never be of much service. On the 24th we retired to Chippewa, and on the 25th, at half-past 4 p. m., our first Brigade, commanded by General Scott, engaged the enemy's advance about 2½ miles from Chippewa. The main body of both armies soon supported the advances, and a tremendous battle was fought, lasting 5 hours and 23 minutes, mostly within half musket shot and sometimes within pistol shot, which ended in the enemy's total defeat, leaving 2 brass 24-pounders and 1 brass six-pounder in our possession. We kept the battle ground until midnight, when, having removed our wounded and part of our dead, we retired to Chippewa, taking with us his brass 6-pounder. We were unable to bring off his two 24-pounders from a want of horses, almost all ours being killed, and our pieces were generally taken off with bricoles. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, must be about 12 or 1300. Of prisoners we have taken Major-General Riall, Gen. Drummond's aide-de-camp, 19 officers and 350 or 400 men. His force engaged was, by their own account, about 4,500 regulars, besides his Indians, &c., commanded by Lieut.-Gen. Drummond and Maj.-Gen. Riall. We had not an Indian engaged, and our force did not exceed twenty-eight hundred men. Our loss is severe. Generals Brown and Scott, and an aide of each, with several field officers, are wounded. Several other officers are killed, among whom was my captain, (Ritchie.) He was wounded in the body, but refused to quit his piece, when a cannon shot took most of his head off. All the men at his piece were killed or wounded. He was brother to the editor of the *Richmond Enquirer*, and formerly lived in Alexandria.

Extract of a Letter from an Officer to the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette, July 31, 1814.

(Niles' Register, Vol. 6, p. 414.)

I have this moment seen your extra of July 28, giving an account of the battle at Bridgewater, in which Captain Towson's company of artillery is the only one mentioned.

It is due to Major Hindman's battalion to state that he advanced with the First Brigade. When the action commenced he returned to camp and brought up Captains Biddle's and Ritchie's companies to its support. It is to be regretted that the enemy's position did not permit our artillery to be as destructive as his, but any credit it may deserve should be shared by the companies mentioned.

Captain Ritchie was killed and Captain Biddle was twice wounded.

The (Phila.) Democratic Press has the Following Letter from Buffalo, dated July 29.

"Our killed were interred in one grave, and a sermon preached over them by the Rev. David Jones, formerly chaplain to General Wayne's army. The artillery which was taken from the enemy was left behind in consequence of the horses being mostly killed. Lieut. Gen. Drummond, as well as Maj.-Gen. Riall, had surrendered, but it being 9 o'clock, and the enemy having possession of our watchword, the Lieut.-Gen. escaped.

Another from Fort Erie, dated August 1, Informs:

"Our army still remains at this place, and are busily employed in entrenching. The enemy's advanced parties are daily skirmishing with our pickets and foraging parties. Nothing of material consequence has as yet occurred. We have just received a reinforcement of about two hundred riflemen from Sackett's harbor. I am happy to find that our loss on the 25th ult. was not so great as at first apprehended. The battle being fought at night, many of men scattered and secreted themselves in the woods, and have not until within a day or two all been collected.

Extract of a Letter Dated Buffalo, August 3, 11 a. m.

"The whole of the enemy's forces have moved up within about one mile of our army. This morning at daylight he crossed over about 500 men just below Black Rock; his object was, no doubt, to attack Buffalo and destroy our stores, etc. He was gallantly met by 200 riflemen and a party of volunteers under Major Morgan.

After contending nearly five hours, he recrossed the Niagara. The loss or gain by either party was not great. We lost two or three men killed and several wounded. Capt. Hamilton is supposed to be mortally wounded.

"We took several prisoners. The enemy's loss is much greater than ours. The armies are still skirmishing."

From Niles' Register, Baltimore, Aug. 13. Vol. 6, p. 415.

Gen. Brown has made a demand on Maj.-Gen. Hall for 1,000 militia. Gen. Hall has issued his orders for an immediate draft of that number.

☞Brown's army was hourly receiving reinforcements. Brig.-Gen. Gaines from Sackett's Harbor, an officer highly spoken of, arrived at Buffalo about the 4th inst., and is supposed to have taken the command at Fort Erie, which by great exertion has been made a strong place. The corps of volunteers under Colonel Swift, late at Lewiston, had crossed and joined the army, as well as considerable bodies of regulars and militia. Twenty wagons laden with bomb shells passed through Geneva for the frontier from the 1st to the 3d inst. Capt. Kennedy with three of our vessels is at Fort Erie ready to co-operate as occasion may require.

From the Vermont Historical Collections. Vol. VI, Page 510.

(From the Northern Sentinel, August 19th, 1814.)

Extract of a letter from an officer of the 11th Regiment to his friend in Burlington, Vt., dated Buffalo, 2nd August, 1814. (Probably written by Lieut. F. A. Sawyer.)

"The late engagement was probably the most sanguinary ever fought on this continent. We engaged the enemy the 25th July, at 6 p. m., near the Falls of Niagara, and continued the fight till half-past 11 at night, when by very inferior numbers the enemy was compelled to retire, leaving us in quiet possession of the field of battle.

The First Brigade, as usual, bore the brunt of the action. We maintained our ground for an hour and a half against the whole forces of the enemy, which were four times our number, before we were supported by a solitary individual of Gens. Ripley's and Porter's brigades. They, however, joined in time to prevent us from being entirely cut up, and contributed a little in giving the enemy a hearty drubbing.

On leaving camp no one anticipated a general engagement. It was the impression that the brigade was ordered out to disperse 400 or 500, as it was supposed, of the enemy's militia and Indians,

who were hanging on the rear for the purpose of annoying our piquets and kidnapping those who might be led by curiosity to visit the Falls. As we advanced a few of the enemy would form and then retire. This manœuvre was continued until we had advanced within half musket shot of the enemy's lines, when the battle commenced. The enemy's position was a most excellent one. Their line of infantry was posted behind a fence, which formed a semi-circle and encompassed a field which our troops were compelled to accept of if they made the attack. Their flanks were protected by woods filled with militia and Indians, and in their rear, at a desirable distance, was a height on which their artillery was planted. Nature could not have formed a more advantageous position. Under these disadvantages our troops attacked them. The 9th and 25th were ordered to attack their flanks, while the 11th and 22nd met their front. We endeavored to form a line in the face and eyes of all their infantry and artillery, but they opened such a deadly and destructive fire upon us that we were compelled to retire a few paces and form in the skirts of a wood, and before we opened upon them more than two-thirds of the two regiments were cut down. However, we then maintained our ground until a reinforcement joined us, when we advanced and drove the enemy in every direction. Col. Miller with his regiment charged and took their artillery, consisting of nine pieces, but they repossessed themselves (on the next morning, when our army had left the field,) of all but two brass six-pounders. For an hour the two lines were within four rods of each other, firing with as much deliberation as if it had been a sham fight, and now and then for a change the point of the bayonet was used. Here, for the first time, I witnessed a charge. It did not prove destructive enough. Towards the close of the action, as there was hardly a company remaining of our regiment and but one man in my platoon, I volunteered in the 9th, and was assigned to Capt. Hull's company. He was killed in the last charge we made upon the enemy. Capt. Pentland and two or three subalterns were also wounded. The latter part of the action was most severe. Gens. Brown and Scott remained untouched, as well as the greater part of the field officers, until the action was nearly at an end. This part of the action proved more destructive to the enemy than to us, as our men did much better execution when in close contact with them. Our fire at length proved so destructive that the enemy's bugle sounded the retreat for the last time, and our troops were left in undisturbed possession of the heights. After having taken off all our own and some of the enemy's wounded, we were ordered to camp. It is a circumstance much to be regretted that our troops did not keep possession of the

field until next morning, as it is believed it might have been effected without much hazard on our part, and then the enemy would not have had the shadow of a claim to the victory, for never was an enemy more completely beaten than in this action, nor never was one gained by harder knocks. We may date all mishaps from the time our beloved General (Scott) was wounded. None could fight more gallantly than he. He had three horses shot under him. Gen. Brown was brave, even to imprudence. He and Gen. Scott were continually in front of the line encouraging the men, both by example and precept. It would be impossible to give you an account of the killed and wounded on their side, if it was proper. Neither can I guess at it, though I am a Yankee. Of our regiment is Capt. Goodrich killed; Capt. Bliss, Lieuts. Hall, Cooper, Webster and Stephenson, and Ensigns Thompson and Bradford wounded. But two captains of our regiment were in the action. Capt. Weeks, with five or six other officers of the regiment, were at Buffalo sick. Our company suffered more severely than any other one. At the commencement of the action it was fifty strong, and next morning but thirteen could be mustered for duty. Gen. Drummond joined the enemy but an hour previous to the action, with 1,400 men. They had 800 or 1,000 more in the field than we did.

From the Baltimore Federal Gazette.

(Issue of 6th August, 1814.)

Extract from a letter from J. B. Varnum to Abraham Bradley, dated at Buffalo, 27th July, 1814:

"Our army behaved most gallantly, fought to desperation, but the enemy was too numerous for them. Our First Brigade was almost annihilated; but one field officer escaped death or severe wounds. It is impossible to say what is the full extent of our loss. A small proportion of our wounded fell into the hands of the enemy besides, I fear, some prisoners. The enemy was so severely cut to pieces that they did not pursue our army.

Lieut. MacEwen to His Wife.

(From A. Brymner's "Excerpts.")

Falls of Niagara, 29th July, 1814.

I came here yesterday on my way to Fort Erie, where the enemy is determined to make a stand. They have done a great deal of harm in this part, and among the sufferers is poor Muirhead, who has been burnt out of his house—Street's Mills and many more.

From Niles' Register, 27th August, 1814.

RICHMOND, August 11.

A letter from Major Hindman of the United States Artillery, after giving an account of the gallant conduct of Captain Ritchie of that corps, who was killed in the battle of the 25th, says: "The British General, Riall, our prisoner, has written for his (Captain R.'s) sword and promises that I shall return it to his friends."

Colonel Hercules Scott, 103d Regt., to His Sister.

FALLS OF NIAGARA, 30th July, 1814.

MY DEAR HELEN,—I am much to blame in thus long having delayed replying to your several letters which I have from time to time received, but for a long time past I have been so much employed in one way or other I have not had a moment to myself. For nearly a month past I have been lying in the woods; the enemy having entered this province in force, all the troops in the neighborhood have taken the field. On the 5th of this month a severe action was fought within about 5 miles of this place, wherein our troops were defeated with a heavy loss. In the first action I was not engaged, but we had another severe one on the 25th, when we had rather the advantage. Thank God, I escaped with only the loss of one horse shot under me. We have been following the enemy and hope to drive them out of the country. I wish you were beside me just now for 10 minutes just to see the grandest falls in the world. No description that I have ever seen comes up in any degree to the original. * * * * *

Believe me, yours ever affectionately,

H. SCOTT.

Lieut. Wm. McEwen, Royal Scots, to Mrs. McEwen.

STREET'S CREEK, 31st July.

This place from the quarters we occupied yesterday is one continuous ruin. We have not seen a soul all the way we have come. We are making every preparation to move towards Fort Erie, where the enemy is in considerable force waiting for one more trial. If once more defeated here, they will be quiet for the remainder of the summer.

From Niles' Register, 27th August, 1814.

Extract from a letter from General Scott, dated Williamsville, August 2d, 1814: "I am doing pretty well under my wounds. That in the shoulder (musket ball through the point of the left

shoulder and clavicle) gives me great pain. I hope, however, to recover the use of my arm, which is at present helpless. This wound was received just at the close of the action."

Extract from a Letter from Sailing Master J. E. McDonald to Capt. Kennedy, U. S. Navy.

ERIE, Pa., July 27, 1814.

SIR,—Agreeably to your instructions, I sailed on the 23d inst. on board the schooner *Diligence* with sixteen volunteers, which, with the six seamen from the *Lady Prevost*, made a party of 22 men, for Long Point. At daylight on the morning of the 25th I landed, with 18 men. We ascended a high and steep bank and advanced about half a mile into the country to Charlotteville, a small village. At this place the enemy had commenced a very large block house. We broke open the doors of an inn and the jail and seized the jailor, from whom I was in hopes I should be able to collect the information wanted. At this moment an alarm gun was fired by the enemy, which was answered by several others. We then retired with the jailor to the boat. When distant from the shore about half a mile, nearly 300 of the enemy had collected on the bank, which number seemed constantly increasing while we were in sight.

Hon. James Fisk to the Secretary of War.

BARRE, Vt., 27th June, 1814.

SIR,—I learn from unquestionable authority that droves of cattle are continually passing from the northern parts of this State into Canada to the British. This business is principally carried on in that part of this State which lies east of Lake Memphramagog and west of the Connecticut river, and can only be checked by an armed force—probably one company of horse might be sufficient. Whether the object be worthy of attention you must judge.

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

(Extract.)

CAMP NEAR PLATTSBURG, July 31, 1814.

The letter from Mr. Fisk of Vermont only confirms a fact which is not only disgraceful to our countrymen but seriously detrimental to the public interest. From the St. Lawrence to the ocean an open disregard prevails for the laws prohibiting intercourse with the enemy. The road to St. Regis is covered with droves of cattle and the river with rafts destined for the enemy. The revenue

officers see these things but acknowledge their inability to put a stop to such outrageous proceedings. On the eastern side of Lake Champlain the high roads are found insufficient for the supplies of cattle which are pouring into Canada. Like herds of buffaloes, they press through the forest making paths for themselves. The collectors of Plattsburg and Burlington have applied to me for assistance. I have offered to supply them with what men and means they might require. Plans have been proposed and acceded to. But when the time of execution arrives the civil officers decline acting. Nothing but a *cordon* of troops from the French Mills to Lake Memphramagog could effectually check the evil. Were it not for these supplies the British forces in Canada would soon be suffering from famine, or their government be subjected to immense expense for their maintenance.

(From "Official Correspondence with the Department of War relative to the military operations of the American army under the command of Major-General Izard on the Northern frontier of the United States in the years 1814 and 1815."
PHILADELPHIA, 1816.)

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS, 31st July, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter (duplicate) of the 20th, and your private communication of the 23rd, the latter stating Your Excellency's view in sending Major Coore to my headquarters.

In reply to the latter I beg briefly to state that in this quarter the great object at present is the defeat and expulsion of the enemy's force which has taken post at Fort Erie, and to this object my sole attention must be given. I am sanguine that with the force I am collecting it will not be found difficult of attainment. I have in the meantime been under the necessity of considerably reducing the garrisons of the forts. Defended, however, by the 89th and 100th Regts., 4 companies of the 41st and 50 marines, they are secure against a *coup de main*. Moreover, if the enemy's squadron should even make its appearance without a co-operating army, and ignorant of the state of their garrisons, I much doubt whether any force that might be embarked on board it would at once proceed to attack the forts. I shall, of course, lose no time in reinforcing those garrisons the moment my present object is accomplished, and if I am fortunate in my operations at Fort Erie this whole frontier may be considered as secure, and I shall immediately

direct my attention to Burlington and York. With regard to Kingston, I beg permission most earnestly to recommend to Your Excellency to concentrate a very large force at that place, not alone for the protection of that most important depot, but the moment the squadron is ready to sail to strike that blow which can alone extinguish the war in this province.

Maj.-Gen. Conran having joined this division, it will move forward towards the enemy to-morrow.

Sir G. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP BEFORE
FORT ERIE, 4th Aug., 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that on Monday the 1st I moved my headquarters to Palmer's, (halfway betwixt Chippawa and Fort Erie,) and on the following morning, the troops being closed up in the order directed in the accompanying District General Order, I took up a position on the heights opposite to Black Rock, the enemy retiring his picquets on the approach of our advanced guards.

Previous to the advance of the brigades, I gave the instructions of which I enclose a copy, to Maj.-General Conran for the crossing of a detachment of 600 men to the right bank of the river for the purpose of capturing or destroying the enemy's depots at Buffalo and Black Rock. Had this service been effected, as I sanguinely expected, the enemy's force shut up in Fort Erie would have been compelled by want of provisions either to come out and fight or to surrender it. I enclose Lt.-Col. Tucker's report, on which I do not think it necessary to offer any other observation than that the disembarkation was effected without the smallest opposition; the force of the enemy which was distinctly seen from the heights on this side the river did not exceed 150 or 200 men, chiefly militia and Indians. The officers, I am happy to find, appear to have done their duty.

The enemy having been put on his guard by this movement made against Black Rock, has in consequence increased his force at that place and Buffalo. Whatever further movement I may be inclined to make on the right bank must be made in considerable force.

On the afternoon of yesterday I advanced the Light Brigade under cover of the wood as close as possible to the fort and position, of which I obtained a very tolerable reconnoissance. In addition to a breastwork and intrenchment by which the fort has been connected with Snake Hill, the enemy has continued the north-eastern demi-bastion of the fort down to the lake and mounted a

considerable number of heavy guns along the whole face. Snake Hill has also been fortified and armed with heavy guns, and the wood round the whole position *abbatied*. Three armed schooners are anchored off the place, so as to flank by their fire the roads both above and below.

On mature consideration therefore, I have determined not to assault the position until I have made some impression by guns of proper battery calibre, which I have sent for from Fort George. The fire of the long 24-pdrs. (iron) which I brought up with the troops, and which was directed during the reconnoissance of yesterday against the enemy's schooners and the fort, convinced me that with the addition of those I have ordered up, viz.: a long 18-pdr., an 8-inch mortar and a 24-pdr. carronade, I shall be able to compel the force shut up in Fort Erie to surrender, or attempt a sortie which can only terminate in his defeat.

Should a favorable opportunity occur before my batteries are established of attacking the place in any other manner, I shall avail myself of it.

I have this morning detached an officer of the Quartermaster-General's Department with a party of dragoons and a few mounted men of the Glengarry Light Infantry by the road leading upon Fort Erie by Bird's and Tyce Horn's, along the lake shore, to make an accurate reconnoissance of the enemy's position.

Should the report be favorable to the enterprise I may probably be induced to assault the place at two points after I am joined by the right wing of the Regt. DeWatteville, for which the schooners have been sent to York, and I am in hourly expectation of hearing of their arrival.

Capt. Dobbs, R. N., is with me with a party of about 30 seamen, and has already been of very essential service to the troops, particularly in the enterprise against Black Rock yesterday.

I have been duly honored with Your Excellency's letter of the 25th ulto. The force recapitulated by Your Excellency as that of the Right and Centre Divisions has a very formidable appearance on paper. I regret, however, to be obliged to observe that the inefficient state and composition of many of the regiments are such as to detract greatly from the confidence which their numbers might otherwise inspire. It is my intention to write, when I have leisure, more fully on this subject, and also, as soon as circumstances will permit, to send down to Kingston several of the corps on this frontier, which are entirely unfit for service in the field.

I transmit by this opportunity a letter which I had intended to have forwarded some days ago by Major Coore. But that officer having informed me that he has Your Excellency's confidential

instructions to remain here for some time, I have acceded to his wishes to be permitted to do so.

(Secret.)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Aug., 1814.

SIR,—I am directed by Lieut.-Gen. Drummond to desire that you will place the following force under the command of Lt.-Col. Tucker, who must be instructed to hold it in readiness to embark this evening in batteaux for the purpose of passing over and operating on the right bank of the river, viz:

	Rank and File.	
4 Battn. Companies, 41st Regt.....	240	Lt.-Col. Evans.
2 Flank " " "	140	
	380	
Light Company, 89th Regt.....	63	Lt.-Col. Drummond.
" " 100th Regt.....	52	
Flank Companies, 104th Regt.....	95	
	210	
1 subaltern, a steady sergeant and 10 Arty.....	10	
Total.....	600	

6 or 8 guard rockets and one rocketeer.

The detachment of artillery to take with it a few 6-pound cartridges, port-fires and slow match, a smith with a sledge hammer, and axes with spikes and everything necessary for effecting the destruction of ordnance, and, (if necessary,) the burning of buildings, stores, and vessels.

This force will embark at 10 o'clock, as near to Frenchman's Creek as may be considered prudent. It is desirable to land it as near the foot of Squaw Island as possible. Proper pilots will be put into the boats, and guides will be sent to conduct the column, which is to proceed with all possible silence and secrecy by the right bank of Conguichity Creek to gain the road leading upon the 11 Mile Creek from Buffalo, which place is to be the first attacked and destroyed, and the boats and craft (if any) seized; this (rapidly) effected, the troops are to march upon Black Rock, attack whatever force the enemy may have there and get possession of his guns should he have any. Lt.-Col. Tucker will decide at the moment as to the expediency of spiking, dismounting, or destroying their guns, or manning them and serving them against the enemy's position or

corps or on the schooners which are anchored on his right flank and which Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy with a party of seaman under his command will make an attempt to gain. It is desirable that Lt.-Col. Tucker should time his march so as to arrive at Buffalo an hour before day in order, after effecting his object at that place, to reach Black Rock just as the day begins to break, at which moment the whole of the division on the left bank will move forward towards Fort Erie for the purpose of favoring Lt.-Col. Tucker's operations against Black Rock by preventing the enemy from detaching troops to that bank. The destruction of the enemy's depot of provisions and stores at Buffalo is the first object, the capture of the guns and dispersion or capture of his troops at Black Rock, should he have either at that place, the second and scarcely less important. By this blow, if effected, and particularly if his stores and provisions fall into our hands, the enemy's force on this side will not only be reduced to the necessity of fighting under desperate circumstances or surrendering unconditionally, but it may lead immediately to the re-establishment of our naval ascendancy on Lake Erie.

The foregoing outline for Lieut.-Col. Tucker's operations is made upon the supposition that his force is passed undiscovered, and at least that his landing is effected without opposition. Should this not be the case, however, and should Lt.-Col. Tucker find himself not only discovered but opposed on approaching the shore, or attacked when landing, it may then become necessary for the Lieut.-Colonel to change his plan of operations by beginning with Black Rock, and afterwards, (if necessary,) proceeding to execute the other objects of the service. Lt.-Col. Tucker will exercise his discretion in this as in every other contingency that may arise and which may not have been contemplated in the proceeding memorandum.

The next point to be considered is the disposal of the batteaux after the troops are landed. The Lieut.-General conceives that they cannot be better disposed of than by taking a station at Strawberry Island or the lower end of Squaw Island, there to await the return of the troops. Capt. Dobbs will avail himself of any favorable opportunity which may offer of carrying into effect the enterprize against any of the enemy's schooners.

Lt.-Col. Nichol, Quartermaster-General of Militia, will accompany Lt.-Col. Tucker, who will not fail to derive the greatest benefit from his valuable local knowledge and his zeal and ability.

J. Harvey,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

To Maj.-Gen. Conran.

Lt.-Col. Tucker to Maj.-Gen. Conran.

Bivouac Near Ferry House, Aug. 4th, 1814.

Sir,—I am sorry to report to you that the force entrusted to my command for purposes stated in the secret instructions with which you did me the honor to furnish me on the evening of the 2nd inst. has failed in the attempt to accomplish the important and very desirable object contemplated by Lieut.-General Drummond, owing to the enemy having destroyed the bridge over Conguichity Creek prior to our arrival at that point and there being no possibility of fording it. I lament to add that in exploring our situation we have sustained a loss of one sergeant and 11 rank and file killed, 17 wounded, and five missing.

I should have been less chagrined at our miscarriage could I consistently, with matter of fact, commend the conduct of the soldiers under my command. Unfortunately it becomes a painful but very necessary duty to apprise you that the men displayed an unpardonable degree of unsteadiness, without possessing one solitary excuse to justify this want of discipline. The officers were perfectly unaware of the sudden impulse of panic which threw their men into a tremendous confusion; their exertions and spirit, however, succeeded in re-forming our column, and I am happy to express my approbation of their conduct.

Lieut.-Col. Drummond commanded my advance and cheerfully afforded every assistance that I could wish or expect from an officer of zeal and judgment, nor am I less indebted to Lt.-Col. Evans, 41st Regt., who had charge of the reserve. These officers perfectly concurred with me in opinion that the destruction of the bridge, the position of the enemy, and the want of a proper guide to conduct us through an intricate wood, amply justified my withdrawing my force in the best possible manner, the wood being occupied partially by the enemy, who was evidently collecting a large force to retain the command of it, and who occupied two small redoubts on the left bank of the creek, which were so situated as to obstruct my advance by a footpath on the right bank, had one been discovered or pointed out to me.

I have the honor to be, &c..

John Goulston Price Tucker.

Return of killed, wounded and missing of the 2d *demi* of the Light or Reserve Brigade and 41st Regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Tucker, in an action on the 3d August, 1814:

41st Companies.—Killed—6 rank and file. Wounded—9 rank and file.

89th do.—None.

100th do.—Wounded—3 rank and file.

104th do.—Killed—1 sergeant, 5 rank and file. Wounded—1 rank and file. Missing—4 rank and file.

41st Regiment.—Wounded—4 rank and file.

Major Morgan to Maj.-Gen. Brown.

FORT ERIE, August 5th, 1814.

SIR,—Having been stationed with the 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment of riflemen at Black Rock, on the evening of the 22nd instant, I observed the British army moving up the river on the opposite shore, and suspecting they might make a feint on Fort Erie with an intention of a real attack on the Buffalo side, I immediately moved and took up a position on the upper side of Conjocta Creek, and that night threw up a battery of some logs which I found on the ground and had them torn away. About 2 o'clock the next morning my pickets from below gave me information of the landing of 9 boats full of troops, half a mile below. I immediately got my men (240 in number) to their quarters, and patiently awaited their approach. At a quarter past 4 they advanced upon us and commenced the attack, sending a party before to repair the bridge under cover of their fire. When they had got at good rifle distance I opened a heavy fire on them, which laid a number of them on the ground and compelled them to retire. They then formed in the skirt of the woods and kept up the fire at long shot, continually reinforcing from the Canada shore, until they had 22 boat loads, and then attempted to flank us by sending a large body up the creek to ford it, when I detached Lieutenants Ryan, Smith and Armstrong with about 60 men to oppose their left wing, where they were again repulsed with considerable loss, after which they appeared disposed to give up their object and retreated by throwing six boat loads of troops on Squaw Island, which enfiladed the creek and prevented me from harassing their rear.

Their superior numbers enabled them to take their killed and wounded off the field, which we plainly saw, and observed they suffered severely. We found some of their dead thrown into the river and covered with logs and stones, and some on the field. We also collected a number of muskets and accoutrements, with clothing that appeared to have been torn to bind their wounds. We took six prisoners, who stated the British force opposed to us to consist of from 12 to 1500 men, commanded by Lieutenant-Col Tucker

of the 41st Regiment. They also state that their object was to recapture General Riall with other British prisoners, and destroy the stores deposited at Buffalo. The action continued about two hours and a half. I am happy to state they were completely foiled in their attempts.

Our loss is trifling compared with theirs. We had two killed and eight wounded. I am sorry to inform you that Captain Hamilton, Lieutenants Wadsworth and McIntosh are among the latter. Their gallantry in exposing themselves to encourage their men, I think, entitles them to the notice of their country. My whole command behaved in a manner that merited my warmest approbation, and in justice to them I cannot avoid mentioning the names of the officers, which are as follows:—Captain Hamilton, Lieutenants Wadsworth, Ryan, Calhoun, McIntosh, Arnold, Shortridge, McFarland, Tipton, Armstrong, Smith, Cobbs, Davidson and Austin, with Ensign Page. If, sir, you believe we have done our duty we shall feel highly gratified.

I am, sir, &c.,

L. Morgan,

Major 1st Rifle Regiment.

Major-General Brown.

Brigadier-Gen. Gaines to the Secretary of War.

Headquarters, Fort Erie,
Upper Canada, Aug. 7th, 1814.

Sir,—I arrived at this post on the 4th instant and assumed the command. The army is in good spirits and more healthy than I could have expected.

The British army under Lieutenant-General Drummond is strongly posted opposite to Black Rock, two miles east of the fort; a skirt of thick wood separates us. I yesterday endeavored to draw him out to see and try his strength; for this purpose I sent the rifle corps through the intervening woods with orders to amuse the enemy's light troops until his strong column should get in motion, and then to retire slowly to the plain this side the woods, where I had a strong line posted in readiness to receive the enemy. Our riflemen met and drove the enemy's light troops into their lines, where they remained, although the riflemen kept the woods near two hours and until they were ordered in. They returned without being able to draw any part of the enemy's force after them.

Major Morgan reports that his officers and men acted with their usual gallantry. The enemy left 11 dead and three prisoners in our hands, and I am informed by two persons just from the

British camp that their loss was much more considerable; among their killed were five Indians. We lost five killed and three or four wounded.

General Drummond's force, from the best information we are able to collect from deserters and others, amounts to upwards 4,000, principally regulars. De Watteville's regiment has joined since the battle of the 25th ultimo, together with two or three companies of the Glengarry corps, making a total joined since the 5th of about 1,200.

August 11th, 1814.

The enemy's position remains unchanged. They have constructed two batteries with two embrasures each, and have erected a wooden breastwork 1200 to 1400 yards in our rear. In examining their works yesterday, Captain Birdsall of the 4th Rifle Regiment, with a detachment of the 1st and his company, amounting in the whole to 160 men, beat in two of their strong pickets with a loss on their part of 10 killed. Captain Birdsall had one killed and three wounded. General Drummond was much disappointed and chagrined at the failure of the enterprise of the 3rd instant against Buffalo, our riflemen having opposed and beaten him. Colonel Tucker, it seems, has been reprimanded in General Orders.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND P. GAINES.

To the Secretary of War.

From Niles' Register, Vol. 6, P. 428.

August 20th, 1814.

Brig.-Gen. Gaines arrived at Fort Erie on the 5th. Some riflemen and other detached parties had gone over. Fort Erie is strong, and our men are full of spirits and confidence. We have no official particulars of the great battle; the account has possibly gone to the enemy with the post-rider from Buffalo. One private letter says the cannon we took in that affair were rolled into the Niagara.

The enemy having been disappointed in gaining Buffalo, made a movement on our position at Fort Erie. They opened a fire on the fort from a large piece of artillery placed on the point about a mile below, which was answered from the fort and a schooner in the harbor. The enemy attacked our picquets with a large force, and marched into the open ground in the rear of the fort, and commenced a heavy fire of musketry, which was warmly returned, and a brisk discharge from several pieces of artillery soon compelled him to retreat in great confusion, leaving a number of his men on the

field as the price of his temerity. The actual loss of the enemy we have not ascertained. We had a few wounded.

Sir G. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 8th Aug., 1814.

SIR,—Immediately after the dispatch of the Deputy-Adjutant-General's letter to Colonel Baynes, respecting the unfortunate accident which Maj.-Gen. Conran met with, and the appearance of the enemy's fleet off Niagara, a sharp affair of outposts took place, the enemy having thrown the whole of his riflemen into the woods in front of his position for the purpose of driving away the Indians, the latter having retired precipitately on the advance of the rifles, some of our most advanced picquets also fell back. On being supported, however, by the Glengarry Light Infantry in the first instance, and subsequently by the reserve, the enemy was driven back and our advanced posts quickly re-occupied. I enclose a return of casualties on this occasion.

During this operation the enemy's schooners cannonaded our position, and one of his 32-pdr. shot having struck close to myself and the Deputy-Adjutant-General, I am sorry to say Lt.-Col. Harvey received a severe wound from one of the splinters, which will, I fear, deprive him of the use of one of his eyes for a few days.

In consequence of the very exposed situation in which we have been compelled from the nature of the ground to place our breaching battery, of which the accompanying sketch will give Your Excellency some idea. I felt convinced that it would be risquing the safety of the guns to arm the battery until a traverse had been thrown up in the front and an *abbattis* on the flanks, to protect it against a sortie, which the enemy would otherwise have the opportunity of making against it with his whole force. The engineer and an officer of the Quartermaster-General's department have accordingly been employed on it, and I am in hopes that by this night the battery will be in a state of sufficient security to admit my placing the guns in it. Your Excellency will perceive, however, by a glance at the sketch, that from the position of the enemy's schooners on its flank and the battery at Black Rock in its rear, a traverse in both these directions is also necessary, for although the enemy has not as yet shewn any guns at Black Rock we have no reason to believe he will refrain from availing himself of that position.

I hope to be able to open this battery to-morrow morning, and if a good effect is produced and no unfavorable circumstances occur,

I shall probably risque an assault upon the place on the following morning, the 10th. My present idea is to make the principal attack with the 2nd Brigade, consisting of the King's and De Watteville's Regts., under Lt.-Col. Fischer, upon the right of the enemy's position by the lake road, on which side I have hitherto carefully refrained from making any demonstration, and have reason to believe that the whole of the enemy's attention has been drawn to his left. If Lt.-Col. Fischer succeeds in gaining possession of Snake Hill I cannot doubt of our success; but Your Excellency may be assured that I shall well weigh the risque and consequences of failure against the chances of success before I commit this division of the troops by an attempt which, considering the strength of the enemy's position and the number of men and guns by which it is defended, must certainly be considered as one of great hazard.

I enclose Your Excellency the latest report from Lt.-Col. Warburton, which is dated at 4 o'clock this morning, at which time the enemy's fleet was standing down the lake without having attempted anything against the forts or vessels in the river. I regret to find that His Majesty's schooner *Magnet*, which had not been able to enter the river Niagara on the appearance of the enemy's squadron and which had in consequence been run ashore at the 10 Mile Creek, has been burnt by her commander. To me this appears to have been an act of unpardonable precipitation, Lt.-Col. Warburton having moved a field-piece and troops to her support. But I am not yet in possession of the whole of the circumstances; however, I trust and believe that the whole of her stores, &c., have been landed and saved.

I omitted to mention, I believe, to Your Excellencey, that on the first appearance of the enemy's fleet I ordered Col. Grant to detach one wing of his regiment to Burlington, remaining with the other himself at York, by which means the security of both places has been effectually provided for.

With a view to the attack contemplated above, I have moved up the remainder of De Watteville's regiment from the forts, and sent the battalion companies of the 41st to replace them.

The troops have hitherto supported the privations and hardships of this severe service with great constancy and cheerfulness, and I am happy to say very few desertions have taken place. Those from the enemy to us have been numerous, and, what is remarkable, three of our deserters serving in the enemy's rifle corps have just come in. I have pardoned these men. They state a circumstance which I have strong reason for believing to be a fact, viz: That in the night action of the 25th ulto., their boasted 1st Brigade laid down their arms and called out that they had sur-

rendered. This being believed by us to be a *ruse de guerre* was not attended to, our fire resumed and the enemy compelled to save themselves by flight.

P. S.—I have considered it necessary to order the 6th Regt. to this frontier.

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. S. *Superior*, OFF KINGSTON,
August 10, 1814.

SIR,—Great anxiety of mind and severe bodily exertions have at length broken down the best constitution, and subjected me to a violent fever that confined me for 18 days. This misfortune was no more to be foreseen than prevented, but was particularly severe at the moment it happened, as it induced a delay of five or six days in the sailing of the fleet.

In the early part of July I expected that the fleet would be made ready by the 10th or 15th, but many of the mechanics were taken sick, and among them the blockmakers and blacksmiths, so that the *Mohawk* could not be furnished with blocks and iron work for her gun and spar decks before the 24th or 25th ult., when she was reported by Capt. Jones. As considerable anxiety was manifested by the public to have the fleet on the lake, I should have asked Capt. Jones to have taken charge of it, but I was then recovering my health and was confident I should be able in three or four days to go on board myself. There was an additional reason for submitting to this delay in the difficulty I found in making the changes of commanders, neither of them being willing to be separated from his officers and men, a change of crews through the fleet being inadmissible.

In the afternoon of the 31st July, I was taken on board, but it was calm, and I did not sail before the next morning. To satisfy at once whatever expectations the public had been led to entertain of the sufficiency of the squadron to take and maintain the ascendency on this lake, and at the same time to expose the falsity of promises the fulfilment of which had been rested on our appearance at the head of the lake, I got under way at 4 o'clock in the morning of the 1st inst. and steered for the mouth of the Niagara. Owing to light winds, I did not arrive there before the 5th. There we intercepted one of the enemy's brigs running from York to Niagara with troops, and drove her ashore about six miles to the westward of Fort George. I ordered the *Sylph* in to anchor as near to the enemy as she could with safety, and destroy her. Capt. Elliot ran in in a very gallant manner to within from 300 to 500

yards of her, and was about anchoring, when the enemy set fire to her and she soon after blew up. This vessel was a schooner the last year, and called the *Beresford*; since they attired her to a brig they changed her name, and I have not been able to ascertain it. She mounted 14 guns, twelve 24-pound carronades and two long 9-pounders.

Finding the enemy had two other brigs and a schooner in the Niagara river, I determined to leave a force to watch them, and selected the *Jefferson, Sylph* and *Oneida* for that purpose, and placed the whole under the orders of Capt. Ridgely. Having looked into York without discovering any vessel of the enemy, I left Niagara with the remainder of the squadron on the evening of the 7th and arrived here the 9th. We found one of the enemy's ships in the offing, and chased her into Kingston.

My anxiety to return to this end of the lake was increased by the knowledge I had of the weakness of Sackett's Harbor, and the apprehension that the enemy might receive large reinforcements at Kingston, and embarking some of the troops on board his fleet make a dash at the harbor and burn it with my stores in our absence. When I left the harbor there were but about 700 regular troops fit for duty. It is true a few militia had been called in, but little could be expected of them should an attack be made. My apprehension, it seems, was groundless, the enemy having contented himself with annoying, in some trifling degree, the coasters between Oswego and the harbor, in his boats.

I cannot forbear expressing my regret that so much sensation has been excited in the public mind because this squadron did not sail so soon as the wise-heads that conduct our newspapers have presume to think I ought. I need not suggest to one of your experience that a man-of-war may seem to the eye of a landsman perfectly ready for sea when she is deficient in many of the most essential points of her armament, nor how unworthy I should have proved myself of the high trust reposed in me had I ventured to sea in the face of an enemy of equal force without being able to meet him in one hour after my anchor was weighed.

It ought in justice to be recollected that the building and equipment of vessels on the Atlantic are unattended by any of the great difficulties which we have to encounter on the lakes; there every department abounds in facilities. A commander makes a requisition, and articles of every description are furnished in twelve hours; but this fleet has been built and furnished in the wilderness, where there are no agents and chandlers, shops and foundries, &c., &c., to supply our wants, but everything is to be created, and yet I shall not decline a comparison with anything done on the Atlantic

in the building and equipment of vessels. The *Guerriere*, for instance, has been building and fitting upwards of twelve months in the city of Philadelphia, and is not yet ready. The *President* went into the navy yard at New York for some partial repairs a few days after the keel of the *Superior* was laid, since then two frigates of a large class and two sloops of the largest class have been built and fitted here, and have sailed before the *President* is ready for sea, although every article of their armament and rigging has been transported from New York in despite of obstacles almost insurmountable. I will go further, sir, for it is due to the unremitted and unsurpassed exertions of those who have served the public under my command, and will challenge the world to produce a parallel instance in which the same number of vessels of such dimensions have been built and fitted in the same time by the same number of workmen.

I confess that I am mortified in not having succeeded in satisfying the expectations of the public, but it would be infinitely more painful could I find any want of zeal or exertion in my endeavors to serve them to which I could in any degree impute their disappointment.

United States Ship *Superior*, off Kingston,
August 10th, 1814.

Sir,—I have been duly honored with your letters of the 19th and 24th of July. I do assure you, sir, that I have never been under any pledge to meet General Brown at the head of the lake; but, on the contrary, when we parted at Sackett's Harbor I told him distinctly that I should not visit the head of the lake unless the enemy's fleet did. I can ascribe the intimation of General Brown, that he expected the co-operation of the fleet, to no other motive than a cautious attempt to provide an apology to the public against any contingent disaster to which his army might be exposed.

But, sir, if any one will take the trouble to examine the topography of the peninsula, (the scene of the General's operations) he will discover that this fleet could be of no more service to General Brown and his army than it could to an army in Tennessee.

General Brown has never been able to penetrate nearer to Lake Ontario than Queenston, and the enemy is in possession of all the intermediate country, so that I could not even communicate with the army but by a circuitous route of 70 or 80 miles.

Admitting General Brown could have invested Fort George, the only service he could have derived from the fleet would have

been our preventing the supplies of the enemy from entering the Niagara river, for the water is so shallow that large vessels could not approach within two miles of their works. General Brown had therefore two abundantly sufficient reasons for not expecting the co-operation of this fleet; it was not promised him, and was chimerical in itself.

My fixed determination has always been to seek a meeting with the enemy the moment the fleet was ready, and to deprive him of any apology for not meeting me. I have sent four guns on shore from the *Superior* to reduce her armament in number to an equality with the *Prince Regent's*, yielding the advantage of their 68-pounders. The *Mohawk* mounted two guns less than the *Princess Charlotte*, and the *Montreal* and *Niagara* are equal to the *General Pike* and *Madison*. I have detached on separate service all the brigs, and am blockading his four ships with our four ships in hopes that this may induce him to come out.

Commodore Chauncey to General Brown.

UNITED STATES SHIP *Superior*, OFF KINGSTON,
August 10, 1814.

SIR,—Your letter of the 13th ult. was received by me on a sick bed, hardly able to hear it read, and entirely unfitted to reply to it. I, however, requested General Gaines to acquaint you with my situation, the probable time of the fleet's sailing and my views of the extent of its co-operation with the army.

From the tenor of your letter it would appear that you had calculated much upon the co-operation of the fleet. You cannot surely have forgotten the conversation we held on this subject at Sackett's Harbor previous to your departure for Niagara. I then professed to feel it my duty as well as inclination to afford every assistance in my power to the army, and to co-operate with it whenever it could be done without losing sight of the great object for which this fleet had been created—to wit, the capture or destruction of the enemy's fleet; but this was a primary object, would be first attempted, and that you must not expect the fleet at the head of the lake unless that of the enemy should induce us to follow him there.

I will not suffer myself to believe that this conversation was misunderstood or has since been forgotten. How then shall I account for the intimation thrown out to the public in your despatch to the Secretary of War, that you expected the fleet to co-operate with you? Was it friendly or just or honorable, not only to furnish an opening for the public, but thus to assist them to

infer that I had pledged myself to meet you on a particular day at the head of the lake for the purpose of co-operation, and in case of disaster to your army to turn their resentment from you, who are alone responsible, upon me, who could not by any possibility have prevented or retarded even your discomfiture? You well know, sir, that the fleet could not have rendered you the least service during your late incursion upon Upper Canada. You have not been able to approach Lake Ontario on any point nearer than Queenston, and the enemy were then in possession of all the country between that place and the shore of Ontario, and I could not even communicate with you without making a circuit of 70 or 80 miles. I would ask, of what possible use the fleet would have been to you in threatening or investing Fort George when the shallowness of water alone would prevent an approach with these ships within two miles of that fort or Niagara? To pretend that the fleet could render the least assistance in your projected capture of Burlington Heights, on your route to Kingston, is still more romantic, for it is well known the fleet could not approach within 9 miles of those Heights.

That you might find the fleet somewhat of a convenience in the transportation of provisions and stores for the use of the army, and an agreeable appendage to attend its marches and countermarches, I am ready to believe, but, sir, the Secretary of the Navy has honored us with a higher destiny—we are intended to seek and to fight the enemy's fleet. This is the great purpose of the government in creating this fleet, and I shall not be diverted in my efforts to effectuate it by any sinister attempt to render us subordinate to or an appendage of the army.

We have one common object in the annoyance, defeat and destruction of the enemy, and I shall always cheerfully unite with any military commander in the prosecution of that object.

Colonel Hercules Scott to His Brother.

Before Fort Erie, 12th August, 1814.

My Dear James,—I shall now give you a short account of our military transactions in this quarter. About 5 weeks ago the enemy crossed over into this Province at Fort Erie with about 6,000 men with 12 pieces of cannon. General Riall, who commanded at Fort George, marched out to meet them, with only 1,500 men. He attacked the enemy near Chippawa, and after a severe action was defeated, with the loss of 700 killed, wounded and missing. This action was ill-advised and the movements ill-executed. After this action General R. returned to Fort George, which the enemy in-

vested, but in a partial manner. Reinforcements arriving from below he came out of the Fort and marched towards Burlington, where I had assembled a considerable force and advanced to meet him. Finding that we had been reinforced, the enemy retired and we followed them. On the 25th of last month they attacked our advanced guard in the evening. This brought on an action, which began about 7 in the evening and lasted till 11 at night. The enemy made several severe and determined attacks and were as often repulsed. In the last they gained possession of 5 out of 7 of our guns, but the fire kept upon them was so severe that it afterwards appeared they had not been able to carry them off, for we found them next morning on the spot they had been taken. No boast of a "Great Victory," but in my opinion it was nearly equal on both sides. Their loss in men was equal ours—878 killed, wounded and missing, besides 61 officers. We found on the field five of the enemy's iron guns, and they carried off one of our brass 6-pounders. The troops engaged behaved well, particularly the 89th Regt., with small detachments of the Royals, 8th, and 103rd. These were in the action during the whole time and lost more than one-half the number they had in the field. Gen. Drummond commanded in the action, but I am sorry to say I could not then or now observe the smallest appearance of generalship. I fear he has got his command, like many others, from the interest of friends, not from his own merit. Since the action the enemy have retired to Fort Erie. We have advanced within two miles, and after innumerable delays have in *9 days* constructed a *4* gun battery, which I expect will open to-morrow, but in my opinion is not adequate to the reduction of the place. Time will show how we get on. We had a severe loss the other day in Gen. Conran. He had only joined a few days when we were deprived of his valuable services by a fall from his horse. He broke his leg. In the few days he was with the the army he had gained the esteem and confidence of every officer and man in the army. We are since the above accident again under the immediate command of Gen. Drummond. For one I can safely say, my confidence is gone. For my part I like to see a General that can first form a plan and then has steadiness to carry his plan into execution. Thank God, I have hitherto escaped. I had only one horse shot under me on the 25th. I shall write you again soon, but probably shall have another brush first in storming this same Fort Erie. Should I fall I have to request that you will give to Archibald five hundred a year to enable him, when he thinks proper, to live in his own country. I have made no will since I have been in this country. I made one in India but do not know what is become of it, so that it will entirely depend on yourself if

you comply with my request or not. I also wish you to give one thousand each to Helen and David. I have some funds in this country but cannot at present say the amount. I shall leave a memorandum for some one here to have my accounts settled and the balance remitted through my friend, Mr. Mure of Quebec, who has some of my baggage in his charge.

Since writing the above our battery has opened against the Fort, and continued the whole of yesterday without having the smallest effect. It is at much too great a distance. I expect we shall be ordered to storm to-morrow. I have little hope of success from this manœuvre. I shall probably write you more, that is, if I get over this present business.

My dear James, yours ever sincerely,

H. S.

14th Augt.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Headquarters,
Camp Before Fort Erie, 12th Aug., 1814.

I had hoped to have been able this morning to have tried the effect of the guns, which have been placed in battery against the enemy's fort and schooner, but the very limited means at the disposal of the engineer officers, and the absolute necessity of constructing a traverse in the rear of the battery against any guns the enemy may have at Black Rock, and of throwing a strong *abbattis* in front of the battery, and securing it on its flanks by similar *abbattis* against a sortie which the enemy would have it in his power to make upon it with his whole force, together with other circumstances connected with the enterprise which Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy, with a party of seamen and marines, will this night undertake against the enemy's schooners, have induced me to defer opening the guns until to-morrow morning.

The enemy has unavoidably had so much time for preparation, and has in his position so considerable a number of heavy guns, that I much fear we shall find the fire of our battery unable to effect much. That of his schooners, if Capt. Dobbs succeeds, will be removed or perhaps turned in our favor, but we shall still be exposed to the enemy's batteries at Black Rock should he, as is confidently believed, have established any on that commanding ridge. From the nature of the ground in front of Fort Erie, Your Excellency must be aware, that without cutting down an immense tract of forest wood it would not be possible to establish my batteries in any situation that would not be taken in reverse from batteries at

Black Rock. I am, however, far from approving of the site on which the battery has been placed by Capt. Romilly, and I have had reason in other respects to be so little satisfied with that officer in the field that I have sent him to Fort George to superintend the duties of the Engineer Department at that post. Lieut. Philpot, assisted by Lieut. Portlock, Royal Engineers; by Lieut. Stevens, Royal Marine Artillery, and by Capt. Barney, 89th Regt., whom I have for the moment attached to the Engineer Department, has conducted the works much to my satisfaction, and should it be found necessary to change the situation of the battery I feel confident in its being quickly and ably effected by these officers.

The enemy makes daily efforts with his riflemen to dislodge our advanced picquets and to obtain a reconnoissance of what we are doing. These attacks, tho' feeble and invariably repulsed, yet harass our troops and occasion us some loss. I enclose returns of those of the 10th and of this day. Your Excellency will observe with concern that on both occasions we have lost an officer killed. I am happy to report that on every occasion the troops show great steadiness, and invariably inflict a loss on the enemy more considerable than their own. The Indians went forward with great spirit the day before yesterday, and in the affair of this day it has just been reported to me they surprised, took, and scalped every man of one of the enemy's picquets.

I cannot forbear of taking this occasion of expressing to Your Excellency my most marked approbation of the uniform exemplary good conduct of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Incorporated Militia, the former under command of Lt.-Col. Battersby, and the latter under Major Kerby: of the services of the latter officer, I regret to say that I have this day been deprived by two wounds, which I trust will prove slight. These two corps have constantly been in close contact with the enemy's outposts and riflemen during the severe service of the last fortnight; their steadiness and gallantry as well as their superiority as light troops have on every occasion been conspicuous.

I am sorry to acquaint Your Excellency that Colonel Stuart of the Royal Scots, whom I had ordered up from York on my being deprived of Major-General Conran's services to assist in the direction of the details of this division, and who arrived here yesterday, is this day attacked with ague and so ill as to be unable to leave his bed. I particularly regret this in consequence of the extraordinary circumstance of Colonel Scott, the next senior officer, having begged permission to resign the command of the brigade to which he had been appointed and to serve in command of his regiment, under a *junior officer*. I can therefore derive no assistance

from that officer. I am very anxious that another General officer should be sent up to this Province as soon as possible.

I have ordered up the 82nd Regt. from York as soon as the first division of the 6th approaches that place.

Commodore Chauncey has left three of his brigs to watch our vessels in the Niagara. They continue cruising off that place.

To-morrow I hope to be able to make a satisfactory communication to Your Excellency of the result of Capt. Dobbs' attempt against the enemy's schooners off Fort Erie, and of the effect produced by the fire of our battery.

I fear I have omitted to represent to Your Excellency the very great assistance which this division of the army has derived from the detachment from H. M. squadron on Lake Ontario, consisting of the *Star* and *Charwell* brigs, and *Netley* and *Magnet* schooners, under Captain Dobbs, R. N. Without their valuable aid in the transport of troops and stores I certainly should not have been able to have attempted offensive operations so soon after my arrival. I feel infinite obligations to Sir James Lucas Yeo for his prompt acquiescence in my request to him to detach these vessels, and I feel the appointment of an officer of such conciliating manners and such zeal and professional ability as Capt. Dobbs to command as an additional favour. Everything is to be expected from the gallantry and exertions of Capt. Dobbs and the party of seamen and marines who have undertaken the enterprise alluded to in the former part of this letter, and who have on every occasion been most forward in volunteering on any service in which they could be useful.

P. S.—Since writing the above the enemy has opened two guns from Black Rock, by the fire of which one sergeant has been killed and four men wounded, of the 2nd Brigade.

G. D.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

Camp Before Fort Erie, 13th Aug., 1814.

Sir,—I have great satisfaction in acquainting Your Excellency with the capture of two of the three armed schooners which were anchored off Fort Erie, and which very much annoyed our left flank. This enterprise was executed in very gallant style by Capt. Dobbs and a party of about 70 seamen and marines, who embarked last night in six batteaux which I had caused to be carried across to Lake Erie for that purpose. I enclose a copy of an order which I have given on the occasion.

I have this morning opened the fire of the battry on Fort Erie, and, although the distance is found to be great, I hope a sufficient effect will be produced.

Morning District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 13th Aug., 1814.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond congratulates the army on the brilliant achievement executed last night by Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy and a party of 70 seamen and marines, who in the most gallant style boarded and after a short struggle carried two of the enemy's armed schooners, anchored close to Fort Erie. Accident alone prevented the capture of the third schooner. Those captured are the *Somers* and *Porcupine*. The former mounts two long 12-pounders, the latter one 12. They were commanded by lieutenants, and had on board 35 men each. The Lieut.-General laments to find that Lieut. Radcliffe, commander of H. M. schooner *Netley*, has fallen on this occasion. He will be buried at 12 o'clock, with such marks of respect as circumstances will permit. Besides Mr. Radcliffe our loss has been only one seaman killed and four wounded. The enemy's loss was one seaman killed, three officers and four seamen wounded. The whole enterprise reflects the greatest credit on the ability and spirit of Capt. Dobbs and the gallant party under his command. The Lieut.-General felt convinced that it could not fail, from the spirited manner in which it was undertaken. He takes this occasion of informing the troops that he has a similar service for them to execute, and he invites corps and individuals desirous of volunteering their services on the occasion to intimate their wishes without delay through their respective Brigadiers to the Deputy-Adjutant-General, for the information of the Lieut.-General commanding.

This Order to be read to the corps immediately.

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

Captain Alexander Dobbs, R. N., to Sir James L. Yeo.

NIAGARA RIVER NEAR FORT ERIE,
Somers SCHOONER, Aug. 13th, 1814.

SIR,—Having succeeded in getting my gig and five batteaux across from the Niagara River to Lake Erie, a distance of eight miles by land, I last night attacked the three enemy's schooners that had anchored close to Fort Erie for the purpose of flanking the approaches to that fort. Two of them were carried sword in hand in a few minutes, and the third would certainly have followed had not the cables been cut, which made us drift to leeward of her among the rapids. The schooners taken are the *Ohio* and *Somers*, commanded by lieutenants and mounting three long 12-pounders,

with a complement of 35 men each. My gallant friend, Lieut. Radcliffe, and one seaman fell in the act of boarding, which with four wounded is our loss. The enemy had one man killed and seven wounded; among the latter is Lieut Conkling, commanding the squadron, as well as two of his officers. The steady and gallant conduct of the officers, seamen and marines employed on this service was such as to have insured me success against a greater force, and has called forth a very handsome General Order from His Honour, Lt.-Gen. Drummond. I beg leave particularly to mention Mr. Grinded, mate of the *Star*, and Mr. Hyde, mate of the *Charwell*, not only for their gallant conduct in the attack, but for their skill in bringing the vessels into this river through shoals and rapids and under a constant and heavy fire.

Killed and wounded in an attack on two of the enemy's schooners under Fort Erie on the night of Aug. 12th:

Killed—C. Radcliffe, acting commander, and J. Acton, seaman. Wounded—J. Hudson and J. Bowen, seamen; T. Roach and J. Dickson, private marines.

Lieut. Conkling to Captain Kennedy.

Fort Erie, Upper Canada, August 16th, 1814.

Sir,—With extreme regret I have to make known to you the circumstances attending the capture of the *Ohio* and *Somers*. On the night of the 12th between the hours of 10 and 12 the boats were seen a short distance ahead of the *Somers* and were hailed from that vessel; they answered "provision boats," which deceived the officers on the deck, as our army boats had been in the habit of passing and repassing through the night, and enabled them to drift athwart his hawser and cut his cables, at the same time pouring in a heavy fire before he discovered who they were. Instantaneously they were alongside of me, and notwithstanding my exertions, aided by Mr. McCally, acting sailing master, (who was soon disabled,) I was unable to repulse them but for a moment. I maintained the quarter deck until my sword fell in consequence of a shot in the shoulder, and all on deck either wounded or surrounded with bayonets. As their force was an overwhelming one I thought further resistance vain, and gave up the vessel, with the satisfaction of having performed my duty and defended my vessel to the last.

List of Killed and Wounded.

Ohio.

Killed—John Fifehill, boatswain's mate, shot through the body.

Wounded—Reuben Wright, shot through the arm.

Sailing-Master McCally, shot through the thigh and bayonetted through the foot.

Sergeant Eastman of the 11th Regiment of the army, wounded in the neck by a musket ball.

—— Granger, 11th Regiment, wounded in the arm.

—— Wreath, 11th Regiment, wounded in the arm.

—— Whillers, 21st do., wounded, cut in the arm.

Somers.

Wounded—Samuel Taylor, shot in the arm and cut in the head.

Charles Ordean, cut in the shoulder: also one of the *Ohio's* marines, whose name the sergeant cannot find, now in the hospital, badly wounded.

The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is much more considerable. Amongst the killed is the commanding officer of the *Netley*, (lying here,) Captain Ratcliff; he fell in attempting to come over my quarters. Notwithstanding the number of muskets and pistols which were fired, and the bustle inseparable from enterprises of this kind, neither the fort nor the *Porcupine* attempted to fire as we drifted past them, nor did we receive a shot until past Black Rock, though they might have destroyed us with ease.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

A. M. Conkling.

P. S.—We expect to be sent to Montreal, and perhaps to Quebec, directly.

General Gaines to the Secretary of War.

Headquarters, Fort Erie, August 13th, 1814.

Sir,—It has become my painful duty to announce to you the loss of that brave and excellent officer, Major Morgan of the 1st Rifle Regiment. He fell at the head of his corps in an affair with the enemy on the 12th instant, after a display of gallantry worthy of the corps and meriting the gratitude of his country.

I had desired him to send a detachment of from 80 to 100 men to cut off a working party, supported by a guard of the enemy's light troops, engaged in opening an avenue for a battery in our rear, having directed him to have his corps ready in support in case the enemy should be reinforced. The detachment was commanded by Captain Birdsall, who attacked and drove the enemy, but when about to return to camp he discovered a large force approaching.

The firing having continued longer than the Major expected, he moved up the moment the enemy's reinforcements made their appearance. A warm conflict ensued, in which they were forced back, but discovering additional reinforcements and receiving my order to fall back on the appearance of a large force, the Major gave the signal with his bugle to retire; at this moment he received a ball in his head. He was brought from the field together with his, men who were killed and wounded. Of the former were two riflemen and a New York volunteer, who, unsolicited, accompanied the riflemen with a small party of his corps, under the command of Lieut. Goodfellow, who, I am informed, has distinguished himself on similar occasions, and for whom permit me to request a commission in one of the Rifle regiments.

(Secret.)

HEADQUARTERS,
CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 14th Aug., 1814.

ARRANGEMENT.

Right Column—Lt.-Col. Fischer:

King's Regiment.
Volunteers—Regt. DeWatteville.
Light Companies—89th and 100th Regts.
Detachment Royal Artillery, one officer and 12 men, and a rocketeer with a couple of 12-pound rockets.
Capt. Eustace's picquet of cavalry.
Capt. Powell, Deputy-Asst.-Quartermaster-General, will conduct this column, which is to attack the left of the enemy's position.

Centre Column—Lt.-Col. Drummond:

Flank Companies—41st Regiment.
do do —104th do
Royal Marines—50.
Seamen—90.
Detachment Royal Artillery, one subaltern and 12 men.
Capt. Barney, 89th Regt., will guide this column, which is to attack the fort.

Left Column—Col. Scott, 103rd Regt:

103rd Regt.
Capt. Elliott, Deputy-Asst.-Quartermaster-General, will conduct this column, which will attack the right of the enemy's position towards the lake, and endeavor to penetrate by the opening between the fort and the entrenchment, using the short ladders at the same

time to pass the entrenchment which is reported to be defended only by the enemy's 9th Regt., 250 strong.

The infantry picquets on Buck's road to be pushed on with the Indians to attack the enemy's picquets on that road. Lt.-Col. Nichols, Quartermaster-General of Militia, will conduct this column.

The rest of the troops, viz:

1st Battalion Royals.

Remainder of DeWatteville's Regt.

Glengarry Light Infantry and Incorporated Militia

Will remain in reserve under Lt.-Col. Tucker and are to be posted on the ground at present occupied by our picquets and covering parties.

Squadron of 19th Dragoons in rear of the battery nearest to the advance, ready to receive charge of prisoners and conduct them to the rear.

The Lieut.-General will station himself at or near the battery, where reports are to be made to him.

Lt.-Col. Fischer, commanding the right column, will follow the instructions he has received, copy of which is communicated to Col. Scott and Lt.-Col. Drummond for their guidance.

The Lieut.-General *most strongly recommends a free use of the bayonet.* The enemy's force does not exceed 1500 fit for duty, and those are represented as much dispirited.

The ground on which the columns of attack are to be formed will be pointed out, and the orders for their guidance will be given by the Lieut.-General commanding.

J. Harvey,
D. A. G.

(Secret.)

Headquarters,
Camp Before Fort Erie, 14th Aug., 1814.

Sir,—Lieut.-General Drummond having selected you to command the (volunteer) force intended to be employed in assaulting the right of the enemy's position, I am directed to desire that you will accordingly march immediately in order to enable you to pass through the woods before dark. On reaching Baxter's you will halt for the night, using every precaution which your experience and prudence can suggest, aided by the necessary personal vigilance of the officers of every rank under your command, to prevent *desertion* and the consequent discovery of your situation and intentions to the enemy. No fire must be lighted, nor any loud chatting by your sentries or patroles permitted. Frequent (hourly)

roll-calls must take place, and no officer allowed to quit his company, section, or sub-division for a single moment except while employed in performing duty on visiting videttes or patroles, and which duties officers of every rank must be required to perform. The surprise of the enemy and perhaps the success of the attack may depend upon this. You are to advance to the attack precisely at two o'clock. You are to enter the enemy's position between Snake Hill and the lake, which is presented as sufficiently open, but this is not to prevent your making your arrangements for assaulting any other point of the position by means of the short ladders or hay-bags with which you will be furnished. In order to *ensure secrecy* the Lieut.-General most strongly recommends that the flints are taken out of the firelocks with the exception of a reserve of select and steady men who may be permitted to retain their flints, (if you think it necessary or advisable,) not exceeding one-third of your force. This reserve, with the detachment of artillery, should take post on Snake Hill. The Lieut.-General is unwilling, however, to suppose the probability of such necessity, as it can only originate in a check, which he is persuaded if the troops are steady and resolute cannot happen. Turning to the left after entering the position, the whole of the enemy's diminished and dispirited troops will be found either in the trench extending from Snake Hill to the fort or in rear of the White House near the lake shore, and in either case will, as well as the batteries, be completely taken in reverse and exposed to your attack under very favorable circumstance which you could desire. The rest must be left to the valour of the troops. I am to apprize you that two columns will advance from this side as soon as it is ascertained that that under your command has entered it—one to attack the fort, composed of flank companies under Lieut.-Col. Drummond and a party of seamen and marines. The other to assault the line of entrenchments extending from the fort down to the lake. A demonstration will be made a few minutes before two o'clock by an attack upon the enemy's picquet opposite to the centre of his entrenchment. The advantages which will arise from taking out the flints are obvious. Combined with darkness and silence it will effectually conceal the situation and number of our troops, and those of the enemy being exposed by his fire and his white trousers, which are very conspicuous marks to our view, it will enable them to use the bayonet with effect which that valuable weapon has been ever found to possess in the hands of British soldiers. A detachment of Royal Artillery will accompany the column for the purpose of either spiking or turning the enemy's guns against himself, according as may be found expedient.

If repulsed the troops are to retire upon the battery on this side and on the reserve on Snake Hill and the cavalry, which will be posted on the Lake Road, on the other.

If the British troops meet within the place they will recognize each other by the words "Prince Regent," answered by "Twenty," the countersign of the day. Capt. Powell, Quartermaster-General's Dept., and Major Coore, A. D. C. to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, will accompany you. As proposals of surrender may probably be made to you, you are to attend to none which are not unconditional, not suffering yourself for a moment to be diverted from the prosecution of your attack. Clemency to prisoners it is unnecessary to recommend to you, but in removing them to the rear you must be careful not to detach too many men. The cavalry will be found useful in receiving and escorting prisoners. By making a considerable number of prisoners you will find, in the event of the contest being protracted until daylight, that the enemy will be so reduced in numbers as not to be able to make any stand against the force under your command (particularly if you have taken possession of Snake Hill) and that which will be detached to co-operate with you from this side. His force is at present understood to be about 1,500 fit for duty. I shall be found at or near the battery.

Much is necessarily left to your judgment and discretion, on which Lieut.-Gen. Drummond has the fullest reliance.

J. Harvey,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

Gen. Armstrong to Gen. Wilkinson.

Sackett's Harbor, September 18, 1813.

"De Watteville's Regiment was made up in Spain, is composed of Poles, Germans, Spaniards and Portuguese, and completely disaffected."

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

Camp Before Fort Erie, Aug. 15th, 1814.

Sir,—Having reason to believe that a sufficient impression had been produced on the works of the enemy's fort by the fire of the battery I had opened on it on the morning of the 13th, and by which the stone building had been much injured and the general outline of the parapet and embrasures very much altered, I determined on assaulting the place, and accordingly made the necessary arrangements for attacking it by a heavy column directed to the entrenchments on the side of Snake Hill, and by two columns to

advance from the battery and assault the fort and entrenchments on this side. The troops destined to attack by Snake Hill, (which consisted of the King's Regiment and that of De Watteville, with the flank companies of the 89th and 100th Regiments, under Lieut.-Col. Fischer of the Regiment De Watteville,) marched at four o'clock yesterday afternoon in order to gain the vicinity of the point of attack in sufficient time. It is with the deepest regret I have to report the failure of both attacks, which were made two hours before daylight this morning. A copy of Lieut.-Col. Fischer's report herewith enclosed will enable Your Excellency to form a tolerably correct judgment of the cause of the failure of that attack. Had the head of the column, (which had entered the place without difficulty or opposition) been supported, the enemy must have fled from his works, (which were all taken as was contemplated in the instructions in reverse) or have surrendered. The attack on the fort and entrenchments leading from it to the lake was made at the same moment by two columns, one under Lieut.-Col. Drummond, 104th Regt., consisting of the flank companies of the 41st and 104th Regts., and a body of seamen and marines under Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy, on the fort; the other, under Col. Scott, 103d, consisting of the 103d Regt., supported by two companies of the Royals, was destined to attack the entrenchments. These columns advanced to the attack as soon as the firing upon Col. Fischer's column was heard, and succeeded after a desperate resistance in making a lodgment in the fort through the embrasures of the demi-bastion, the guns of which they had actually turned against the enemy who still maintained the stone building, when most unfortunately some ammunition which had been placed under the platform caught fire from the firing of the guns to the rear, and a most tremendous explosion followed, by which almost all the troops which had entered the place were dreadfully mangled. Panic was instantly communicated to the troops, (who could not be persuaded that the explosion was accidental,) and the enemy at the same time pressing forward and commencing a heavy fire of musquetry, the fort was abandoned and our troops retreated towards the battery. I immediately pushed out the 1st Battalion, Royals, to support and cover the retreat, a service which that valuable corps executed with great steadiness. Our loss has been very severe in killed and wounded, and I am sorry to add that almost all those returned "missing" may be considered as wounded or killed by the explosion, and left in the hands of the enemy. The failure of these most important attacks has been occasioned by circumstances which may be considered as almost justifying the momentary panic which they produced, and which introduced a degree of confusion into the

columns which in the darkness of the night the utmost exertions of the officers were ineffectual in removing. The officers appear invariably to have behaved with the most perfect coolness and bravery, nor could anything exceed the steadiness and order with which the advance of Lieut.-Col. Fischer's brigade was made until, emerging from a thick wood, it found itself suddenly stopped by an *abbattis*; and within a heavy fire of musquetry and guns from behind a formidable entrenchment.

With regard to the centre and left columns, under Col. Scott and Lieut.-Col. Drummond, the persevering gallantry of both officers and men until the unfortunate explosion could not be surpassed. Col. Scott of the 103d and Lieut.-Col. Drummond of the 104th Regiments, who commanded the centre and left attacks, were unfortunately killed, and Your Excellency will perceive that almost every officer of those columns was either killed or wounded, by the enemy's fire or by the explosion.

My thanks are due to the undermentioned officers, viz: To Lieut.-Col. Fischer, who commanded the right attack; to Major Coore, aide-de-camp to Your Excellency, who accompanied that column; Major Evans of the King's, commanding the advance; Major Villatte of De Watteville's; Capt. Basden, light company, 89th; Lieut. Murphy, light company, 100th. I beg also to add the name of Capt. Powell of the Glengarry Light Infantry, employed on the staff as Deputy-Assistant in the Quartermaster-General's Department, who conducted Lieut.-Col. Fischer's column and first entered the enemy's entrenchments, and by his coolness and gallantry particularly distinguished himself; Major Villatte of De Watteville's Regiment, who led the column of attack and entered the entrenchments, as did Lieut. Young with about 50 men of the light companies of the King's and De Watteville's Regiments. Capt. Powell reports that Sergt. Powell of the 19th Dragoons, who was perfectly acquainted with the ground, volunteered to act as guide and preceded the leading sub-division in the most intrepid style. In the centre and left columns, the exertions of Major Smelt of the 103d Regt., who succeeded to the command of the left column on the death of Col. Scott; Capts. Leonard and Shore of the 104th flank companies; Capts. Glew, Bullock and O'Keefe, 41st flank companies; Capt. Dobbs, of the Royal Navy, commanding a party of volunteer seamen and marines, are entitled to my acknowledgements (they are all wounded). Nor can I omit mentioning in the strongest terms of approbation the active, zealous and useful exertions of Capt. Elliott of the 103d Regt., Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, who was unfortunately wounded and taken prisoner, and Capt. Barney of the 89th Regt., who had

volunteered his services as a temporary assistant in the Engineer Department and conducted the centre column to the attack, in which he received two dangerous wounds. To Major Phillot, commanding Royal Artillery, and Capt. Sabine, who commanded the battery as well as the field guns, and to the officers and men of that valuable branch of the service, serving under them, I am to express my entire approbation of their skill and exertions. Lieut. Charlton of the Royal Artillery entered the fort with the centre column, fired several rounds upon the enemy from his own guns, and was wounded by the explosion. The ability and exertions of Lieut. Philpot of the Royal Engineers and the officers and men of that department claim my best acknowledgements. To Lieut.-Col. Tucker, who commanded the reserve, and to Lieut.-Col. Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer, and Lieut.-Col. Battersby of the Glengarry Light Infantry, and Capt. Walker of the Incorporated Militia, I am greatly indebted for their active and unremitting attention to the security of the outposts. To the Deputy-Adjt.-Gen. and Deputy-Quartermaster-Gen., Lieut.-Col. Harvey and Lieut.-Col. Myers, and to the officers of their departments respectively, as well as to Capt. Foster, my military secretary, and the officers of my general staff, I am under the greatest obligations for the assistance they afforded me. My acknowledgements are due to Capt. D'Alton of the 90th Regt., Brigade Major to the Right Division, and to Lieut.-Col. Nichol, Quartermaster-General of Militia: the exertions of Dep.-Commissary-Gen. Turquand and the officers of that department, for the supply of the troops; and the care and attention of Staff Surgeon O'Malley and the medical officers with the division to the sick and wounded, also claim my thanks.

Lt.-Col. Fischer to Col. Harvey.

Camp Before Fort Erie, Aug. 15th, 1814.

Sir,—I have the honor to report to you for the information of Lieut.-Gen. Drummond, that in compliance with the orders I received, the brigade under my command, consisting of the 8th and De Watteville's Regiment, the light companies of the 89th and 100th, with a detachment of artillery, attacked this morning at two o'clock the enemy's position at Snake Hill, and to my great concern failed in the attempt. The flank companies of the brigade who were formed under the orders of Major Evans of the King's Regiment for the purpose of turning the position between Snake Hill and the lake, which was found impenetrable, and was prevented from supporting Major De Villatte of De Watteville's and Captain Powell of the Quartermaster-General's Department, who actually

with a few men had turned the enemy's battery. The column of support, consisting of the remainder of De Watteville's and the King's Regiment forming the reserve, in marching too near the lake found themselves entangled between the rocks and the water, and by the retreat of the flank companies, were thrown into such confusion as to render it impossible to give them any kind of formation during the darkness of the night, at which time they were exposed to a most galling fire of the enemy's battery and the numerous parties in the *abbattis*, and I am perfectly convinced that the great number of missing are men killed or severely wounded at that time when it was impossible to give them any assistance. After daybreak the troops formed and retired to camp. I enclose a return of the casualties.

I have, &c.,

J. Fischer.

Killed, Wounded and Missing of the Right Division at Fort on the Morning of 15th August, 1814.

Killed—2 lieut.-colonels, 1 captain, 1 lieut., 1 sergeant, 1 drummer, 51 rank and file.

Wounded—1 dep.-assist.-quartermaster-general, 1 major, 8 captains, 11 lieuts., 2 ensigns, 1 master, 12 seamen, 20 sergeants, 3 drummers, 250 rank and file.

Missing—1 dept.-assist.-quartermaster-general, 1 captain, 3 lieuts., 2 ensigns, 1 midshipman, 1 adjutant, 7 seamen, 41 sergeants, 3 drummers, 479 rank and file. Of the number returned missing the greater part are supposed to have been killed by the explosion of a magazine.

Officers killed, wounded and missing:

Killed—1st or Royal Scots, Capt. Torrens; 8th Regt., Lieut. Noel; 103d, Col. Scott; 104th, Lieut.-Col. Drummond.

Wounded—General Staff, Capt. Powell, Navy Captain Dobbs, Lieut. Stevenson, Mr. Harris, master; Royal Scots, Captain Rowan, Lieut. Vaughan; 8th Regt., Lieut. Young; 41st Flank Companies, Capts. Glew and Bullock, Lt. Hailes, Ensign Townshend; 89th Regt., Capt. Barney; 100th, Volunteer Frazer; 103d, Major Smelt, Capts. Gardner and Colclough, Lieuts. Fallon, Charlton, Cuppage, Meagher, Burrows and Hazen, Ensign Nash; 104th Flank Companies, Capt. Leonard, Lieut. McLaughlan.

Missing—General Staff, Capt. Elliott, Royal Navy; Mr. Hyde, midshipman; 41st Flank Companies, Lieut. Gardner, Ensign Hall; 100th Light Co., Ensign Murray; 103d Regt., Capt. Irwin, Lieut. Kaye, Ensign Henry, Lieut. and Adjt. Pettit.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, Aug. 16, 1814.

(Private.)

DEAR SIR,—I have had a most painful and distressing duty to perform in reporting to Your Excellency the disastrous result of the attack which I directed to be made yesterday morning on the enemy's works and Fort Erie, an attack which there was no probability of a doubt but must have succeeded had the troops fulfilled that part allotted to them.

It signifies not to the public to whom the culpability of failure in military matters is attachable, the commander at all times falls under censure, however high his character may have been. The agony of mind I suffer from the present disgraceful and unfortunate conduct of the troops committed to my superintendence wounds me to the soul.

The right column of attack was entrusted to Lt.-Col. Fischer, and from the reports I had of its steady conduct on the line of march every hope was entertained of a continuance of it in the hour of trial. Capt. Powell, D. A. Q. M. G., led the column. The forlorn hope consisted of a sub-division of the light company of the King's Regt. under Lieut. Young, and Sergt. Powell of the 19th Light Dragoons accompanied it, being acquainted with the ground. This sub-division was supported by the light company of De Watteville's Regt. The 100th Light Company followed. Next, the second sub-division of the King's Light Company. Then the grenadiers of De Watteville's and the light company of the 89th. This corps was supported by the volunteers of De Watteville's (nearly the whole regiment) and the King's Regt.

It appears that part of the forlorn hope and about half of De Watteville's Light Company, by wading through the water, though the footing was excessively rough and rocky along the lake shore, turned the left flank of an *abbattis* which extended from the enemy's battery on Snake Hill (the left of their position) to the lake, and part penetrated through the *abbattis* itself, and thereby gained the rear of the enemy's works. The fire of the enemy by this time being extremely heavy, both from artillery and musketry, it would seem as if a simultaneous shock of panic pervaded the greater part of those not immediately in advance, and the forlorn hope, not finding itself sufficiently supported, was reluctantly under the necessity of relinquishing the advantages they had gained and of retiring again through the water under a most galling fire. They lost many men, and De Watteville's light company nearly half their numbers. The light company of the 89th, notwithstand-

ing they were nearly overwhelmed by the grenadiers of Watteville's in the precipitancy of their retreat, was the only body that preserved its order and remained firm upon its ground. By this act of steadiness they fortunately lost scarcely a man. The main body of De Watteville's retreated in such confusion they carried the King's Regt. before them like a torrent.

Thus by the misconduct of this foreign corps has the opportunity been totally lost for the present of striking such a blow at the enemy's force in this neighborhood as would altogether prevent his appearing again in any force on the Niagara frontier, at least during the present campaign.

The attacking columns of the left were entrusted to Col. Scott and Lieut.-Col. Drummond. An unfortunate explosion, supposed by accident, of some expense ammunition in the demi-bastion of the works, by the destruction of many valuable officers and men, threw the remainder into such confusion and dismay that they likewise made a precipitate retreat, and the enemy remained in possession of his works.

Major Coore, Your Excellency's A. D. C., who volunteered his services, accompanied Lt.-Col. Fischer's column and, I have much pleasure in acquainting you, afforded much assistance to that officer.

Capt. Powell's zeal and gallantry was most conspicuous. His exertions have at all times been so unremitting as to merit my warmest approbation.

I am now reduced to a most unpleasant predicament with regard to force, as the Royals, the King's, 41st, 89th, 100th, and now the 103rd, are so much weakened as certainly not to be fit to keep the field.

I have thought advisable to order the 82nd from Burlington and York without delay, and the 6th, now on its march to York, also to proceed to this frontier.

I had intended to order another regiment from Kingston, but from the badness of the roads since the recent rains I could not calculate upon their arrival here before our squadron will be able to take the lake, and as even at present the diminution of stores and provisions is beginning to be felt, I entreat Your Excellency will impress upon the Commodore the necessity of conveying to the Right Division, the very first moment the squadron can leave harbor, a full supply of each, as well as a reinforcement of troops, which I should wish to be the 90th or any equally strong regiment, instead of the Canadian Fencibles or 97th, both comparatively weak in point of numbers.

I take the opportunity of transmitting this letter by Your Excellency's A. D. C., Major Coore.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,
MONTREAL, August 25th, 1814.

In promulgating to the troops an extract from a District General Order issued by Lieutenant-General Drummond to the right division of this army in consequence of the capture of two of the enemy's schooners, co-operating in the defence of the enemy's position at Fort Erie, the commander of the forces avails himself of the opportunity it presents to acknowledge the high sense he entertains of the valuable services rendered to the right division by Captain Dobbs of the Royal Navy and the officers and seamen of the vessels placed under his command for that purpose by Commodore Sir James Yeo.

This event, so ably planned and so gallantly executed, was followed by a general attack of the enemy's forts and entrenchments.

Lieutenant-General Drummond reports that the spirit with which it was undertaken enabled our troops to surmount every obstacle, Fort Erie and the entrenchments were entered, the guns turned on the barrack blockhouse, (the enemy's last refuge) when unfortunately a most violent explosion occurred in the battery, in its effect destroying and disabling many a valuable officer and soldier, and caused so considerable a consternation as to induce the remaining troops to abandon the works and all those advantages which they had gained by their determined conduct, and precipitately to retire on our first approaches.

From other causes, almost inseparable to night operations carried on in a close and difficult country, the right column failed in the object it had to accomplish.

With deep regret the Commander of the Forces records the loss His Majesty's service has sustained on this occasion.

Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing of the Right Division, in the Assault of Fort Erie on the 15th August, 1814.

Killed—1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 1 drummer, 51 rank and file.

Wounded—1 major, 9 captains, 11 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 1 master, 20 sergeants, 3 drummers, 262 rank and file.

Missing—2 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 midshipman, 41 sergeants, 3 drummers, 486 rank and file.

Officers killed—1st Royal Scots—Captain Torrens: 8th King's—Lieut. Noel: 103rd Regt.—Colonel Scott: 104th Regt.—Lieut.-Col. Drummond.

Officers wounded—Royal Navy—Captain Dobbs and Lieut. Stevenson, slightly; Mr. Harris, master, severely.

1st Royal Scots—Capt. Rowan, severely; Lieut. Vaughan, slightly.

8th King's—Lieut. Young, slightly.

41st Flank Companies—Captains Glew and Bullock, severely; Lieut. Hailes, slightly; Ensign Townsend, severely.

89th Regt.—Capt. Barney, acting assistant engineer, severely.

100th Regt.—Lieut. Murray, wounded and prisoner; volunteer Fraser, severely.

103rd Regt.—Major Smelt and Capt. Gardner, severely; Captain Colclough and Lieut. Charlton, severely and prisoner: Lieut. Fallon, severely; Lieut. Cuppage, Jr., dangerously; Lieut. Meagher, slightly; Lieuts. Burrows, Hazen and Ensign Nash, severely.

104th Flank Companies—Capt. Leonard and Ensign McLaughlin, severely.

Officers missing—General Staff—Capt. Elliot, deputy-assistant-quartermaster-general.

Royal Navy—Mr. Hyde, midshipman.

41st Flank Companies—Lieut. Gardner and Ensign Hall.

103rd Regt.—Capt. Irwin, Lieut. Kaye, Ensign Huoy, Lieut. and Adjutant Pettit.

EDWARD BAYNES,
Adjutant-General.

Gen. Gaines to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS,
FORT ERIE, U. C., August 15th, 1814.

SIR,—My heart is gladdened with gratitude to heaven and joy to my country, to have it in my power to inform you that the gallant army under my command has this morning beaten the enemy commanded by Lieutenant-General Drummond, after a severe conflict of near three hours, commencing at 2 o'clock this morning. They attacked us on each flank, got possession of the salient bastion of the old Fort Erie, which was regained at the point of the bayonet with a dreadful slaughter. The enemy's loss in killed and prisoners is about 600; near 300 killed. Our loss is considerable, but I think not one-tenth as great as that of the enemy. I will not detain the express to give you the particulars. I am preparing my force to follow up the blow.

Killed, Wounded and Missing of the Left Division of the United States Army, Commanded by Brigadier-General Gaines, in the Action of the 15th August, 1814, at Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

Adjutant-General's Office,
FORT, ERIE, Aug. 14th, 1814.

Corps of Bombardiers.

Killed—1 private.

Artillery.

Killed—1 captain, 1 subaltern, 2 privates; wounded—severely, 1 lieutenant, 3 privates; slightly, 6 privates; missing—1 lieutenant, 3 privates.

1st Brigade.

9th Regiment—slightly wounded—1 private.

11th do—killed—3 privates; wounded—dangerously, 1 sergeant, 1 private; severely, 4 privates; slightly, 4 privates.

19th Regiment—killed—5 privates; wounded—dangerously, 1 subaltern; severely, 1 sergeant, 4 privates; slightly, 1 corporal, 8 privates. (This regiment was stationed in the fort.)

22nd Regiment—killed—two privates; wounded—severely, 5 privates.

2nd Brigade.

21st Regiment—killed—2 privates; wounded—severely, 1 subaltern, 3 privates; slightly, 3 privates; missing—2 privates.

1st and 4th Rifle Corps.

Wounded—severely, 1 captain, 1 private; missing—1 private.

Names of Officers.

Artillery—Capt. Williams and Lieut. McDonough, killed; Lieut. Watmough, wounded severely; Lieut. Fontaine, missing.

19th Regt.—Lieut. Bushnell, Ensign Cissna, wounded.

23rd Regt.—Lieuts. Brown and Belknap, wounded.

4th Rifles—Capt. Birdsall, wounded.

Report of the Killed and Wounded During the Cannonading and Bombardment.

Commencing at sunrise on the morning of the 13th instant and continuing without intermission till 8 o'clock p. m., recommenced on the 14th at daylight with increased warmth, and ending one hour

before the commencement of the action at Erie on the morning of the 15th :

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, August 15th, 1814.

Corps of Artillery—wounded—severely, 2 privates; slightly, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 3 privates.

11th Regt.—wounded—severely, 2 sergeants, 2 privates; slightly, 3 privates.

19th Regt.—wounded—severely, 1 subaltern.

21st Regt.—killed—4 privates; wounded—severely, 3 privates; slightly, 2 privates.

22nd Regt.—killed—1 sergeant; wounded—severely, 2 corporals, 2 privates; slightly, 3 privates.

23rd Regt.—killed—1 private; wounded—severely, 1 private.

Rifle Regiments, 1st and 4th—killed—1 corporal, 2 privates; wounded—severely, 3 privates; slightly, 1 private.

Officers Wounded.

Artillery—Capt. Biddle, Lieuts. Zantzinger and Watmough.

Infantry—Lieut. Patterson, 19th Regt.

Killed.

George Carryl, 23rd Regt., Orderly to General Gaines.

ROGER JONES,
Asst.-Adjt.-Gen.

Brigadier-General Gaines to the Secretary of War.

H. Q., FORT ERIE, U. C., Aug. 23d, 1814.

SIR,—Loss of sleep and constant exposure to weather gave me some days ago a violent cold, which has put it out of my power to do anything more than the state of the service here rendered indispensable; hence my apology for delaying until this day my report of the battle of the 15th inst.

General Drummond is quietly engaged in collecting reinforcements. His camp appears to be fortified. I attempted to look at it a few days past and it cost me a fine young officer, Lieut. Yates of the 4th Rifle Regiment, killed, and Lieut. Kearsley of that excellent corps with Lieut. Childs of the 9th, wounded, with the loss of 2 or 3 privates killed and 5 or 6 wounded. The loss of the enemy I was unable to ascertain; he would not leave his defences, and I did not think fit to leave mine at all exposed. Several deserters say that the 6th and 82d Regiments arrived last night. If this be true, their strength is about the same as it was before the battle of the 15th. Their Colonel Scott is dead. About twenty deserters

from the De Watteville Regiment and some few from the other corps concur in the report that their loss in killed, wounded and missing on the 15th was upwards of a thousand.

Brigadier-General Gaines to the Secretary of War.

H. Q., Left Wing 2d Division,
Fort Erie, U. C., Aug. 23d, 1814.

Sir,—I have the honor to communicate for the information of the department of war, the particulars of the battle fought at this place on the 15th inst. between the left wing of the 2d Division of the Northern army under my command and the British forces in the Peninsula of Upper Canada commanded by Lieut.-General Drummond, which terminated in a signal victory in favor of the United American arms. Our position on the margin of the lake at the entrance of the Niagara River being nearly a horizontal plain, twelve or fifteen feet above the surface of the water, possessing few natural advantages, had been strengthened in front by temporary parapet, breastworks, entrenchments and *abattis*, with two batteries and 6 field pieces. The small unfinished Fort Erie with a 24, 18 and 12-pounders formed the N. E., and the Douglass battery with an 18 and 6-pounder the S. E. angle of our right; the left is defended by a redoubt battery with 6 field pieces, just thrown up on a small ridge; our rear was left open to the lake, bordered by a rocky shore of easy ascent; the battery on the left was defended by Capt. Towson; Fort Erie by Capt. Williams, with Major Trimble's command of the 19th Infantry; the batteries on the front by Captains Biddle and Fanning; the whole of the artillery commanded by Major Hindman. Parts of the 11th, 9th and 22d Infantry (of the late veteran brigade of Maj.-Gen. Scott) were posted on the right under the command of Lieut.-Col. Aspinwall; Gen. Ripley's brigade, consisting of the 21st and 23d, defended on the left; Gen. Porter's brigade of the New York and Pennsylvania Volunteers with our distinguished riflemen occupied the centre.

I have therefore omitted stating to you that during the 13th and 14th the enemy had kept up a brisk cannonade, which was sharply returned from our batteries without any considerable loss on our part. At 6 p. m. one of their shells lodged in a small magazine in Fort Erie, which was fortunately almost empty; it blew up with an explosion more awful in its appearance than injurious in its effects, as it did not disable a man or damage a gun. It occasioned but a momentary cessation of the thunders of the artillery on both sides; it was followed by a loud and joyous shout of the British army, which was instantly returned on our part, and

Captain Williams, amidst the smoke of the explosion, renewed the contest by an animated roar of his heavy cannon.

From the supposed loss of our ammunition and the consequent depression such an event was likely to produce upon the minds of our men, I felt persuaded that this explosion would lead the enemy to assault, and made my arrangements accordingly. The annexed paper, No. 1, is a copy of Lieut.-Gen. Drummond's plan of attack.

The night was dark and the early part of it raining, but the faithful sentinel slept not. One-third of the troops were up at their posts. At half-past 2 o'clock the right column of the enemy approached, and though enveloped in darkness, black as his designs and principles, was distinctly heard on our left and promptly marked by our musquetry, under Major Wood, and artillery, under Captain Towson. Being mounted at the moment, I repaired to the point of attack, where the sheet of fire rolling from Towson's battery and the musquetry of the left wing of the 21st Infantry, under Major Wood, enabled me to see the enemy's column of about 1,500 men approaching on that point. His advance was not checked until it approached within ten feet of our infantry; a line of loose brush representing an *abattis* only intervened: a column of the enemy attempted to pass round the *abattis* through the water, where it was nearly breast deep: apprehending that this point would be carried, I ordered a detachment of riflemen and infantry to its support, but having met with the gallant commander, Major Wood, was assured by him that he could defend his position without reinforcements.

At this moment the enemy were repulsed, but instantly renewed the charge and were again repulsed. My attention was now called to the right, where our batteries and lines were soon lighted by a most brilliant fire of cannon and musquetry. It announced the approach of the centre and left columns of the enemy, under Colonels Drummond and Scott. The latter was received by the veteran 9th, under the command of Capt. Foster, and Captains Boughton and Harding's companies of New York and Pennsylvania Volunteers, aided by a 6-pounder judiciously posted by Major McRea, chief engineer, who was most active and useful at this point. They were repulsed. That of the centre, led by Col. Drummond, was not long kept in check. It approached at once every assailable point of the fort, and with scaling ladders ascended the parapet, but was repulsed with dreadful carnage. The assault was twice repeated and as often checked, but the enemy having moved round in the ditch, covered by darkness added to the heavy cloud of smoke which had rolled from our cannon and musqetry enveloping surrounding objects, repeated the charge, re-ascended the ladders, and

with their pikes, bayonets and spears fell upon our gallant artillerists. The gallant spirits of our favorite Capt. Williams and Lieuts. McDonough and Watmough, with their brave men, were overcome; the two former and several of their men received deadly wounds. Our bastion was lost. Lieut. McDonough being severely wounded, demanded quarter: it was refused by Col. Drummond. The lieutenant then seized a handspike and nobly defended himself until he was shot down with a pistol by the monster who had refused him quarter, who often reiterated the order, "give the damned Yankees no quarter." This officer, whose bravery if it been seasoned with virtue would have entitled him to the admiration of every soldier—this hardened murderer—soon met his fate. He was shot through the breast by ——— of the ——— regiment while repeating the order to give no quarter. The battle now raged with increased fury on the right, but on the left the enemy was repulsed and put to flight; thence and from the centre I ordered reinforcements. They were promptly sent by Brig.-Gen. Ripley and Gen. Porter. Captain Fanning of the corps of artillery kept up a spirited and destructive fire with his field pieces on the enemy attempting to approach the fort. Major Hindman's gallant efforts, aided by Major Trimble, having failed to drive the enemy from the bastion with the remaining artillery and infantry in the fort, Capt. Birdsall of the 4th Rifle Regiment gallantly rushed in through the gateway to their assistance, and with some infantry charged the enemy, but was repulsed and the captain severely wounded. A detachment from the 11th, 19th and 22d Infantry under Capt. Foster of the 11th were introduced over the interior bastion for the purpose of charging the enemy: Major Hall, Assistant-Inspector-General, very handsomely tendered his services to lead the charge. The charge was gallantly made by Capt. Foster and Major Hall, but owing to the narrowness of the passage up the bastion, admitting only 2 or 3 men abreast, it failed. It was often repeated and as often checked. The enemy's force in the bastion was, however, much cut to pieces and diminished by our artillery and small arms.

At this moment every operation was arrested by the explosion of some cartridges deposited in the end of the stone building adjoining the contested bastion: the explosion was tremendous; it was decisive: the bastion was restored.

At this moment Capt. Biddle was ordered to cause a field piece to be posted so as to enfilade the exterior plain and salient glacis. The captain, though not recovered from a severe contusion in the shoulder received from one of the enemy's shells, promptly took his position and served his field piece with vivacity and effect. Capt. Fanning's battery likewise played upon them at this time

with great effect. The enemy were in a few moments entirely defeated, taken, or put to flight, leaving on the field 221 killed, 174 wounded, and 186 prisoners, (581), including 14 officers killed and 7 wounded and prisoners. A large portion are so severely wounded that they cannot survive. The slightly wounded, it is presumed, were carried off.

To Brig.-Gen. Ripley much credit is due for the judicious disposition of the left wing previous to the action, and for the steady, disciplined courage manifested by him and his immediate command, and for the promptness with which he complied with my orders for reinforcement during the action. Brig.-Gen. Porter, commanding the New York and Pennsylvania Volunteers, manifested a degree of vigilance and judgment in his preparatory arrangements as well as military skill and courage in action, which proves him worthy the confidence of his country and the brave volunteers who fought under him. Of the volunteers, Captains Boughton and Harding, with their detachments posted on the right and attached to the line commanded by Capt. E. Foster of the veteran 9th Infantry, handsomely contributed to the repulse of the left column of the enemy, under Col. Scott.

The judicious preparations and steady conduct of Lieut.-Col. Aspinwall, commanding the First Brigade, merit approbation. To Major McRea, chief engineer, the greatest credit is due for the excellent arrangement and skilful execution of his plans for fortifying and defending the right, and for his correct and seasonable suggestions in regaining the bastion. Major Wood of the Engineers also greatly contributed to the previous measures of defence. He had accepted the command of a regiment of infantry, (the 21st,) for which he had often proved himself well qualified, but never so conspicuously as on this occasion.

Towson's battery emitted a constant sheet of fire. Wood's small arms lighted up the space and repulsed five terrible charges made between the battery and the lake. Brig.-Gen. Ripley speaks in high terms of the officers and men engaged, particularly Captains Marston and Ropes; Lieutenants Riddle of the 15th, (doing duty with the 21st,) and Hall; Ensigns Benn, Jones, Cummings and Thomas of the 21st; and Keally and Green of the 19th.

Major Hindman, and the whole of the artillery under the command of that excellent officer, displayed a degree of gallantry and good conduct not to be surpassed. The particular situation of Capt. Towson and the much lamented Captain Williams and Lieutenant McDonough, and that of Lieut. Watmough as already described, with their respective commands, rendered them most conspicuous. The courage and good conduct of Lieut. Zantzinger and

Lieut. Chiles is spoken of in high terms by Major Hindman and Captain Towson, as also that of Sergeant-Major Denbon. Captains Biddle and Fanning on the centre and right of their intrenchments threw their shot to the right and left and front, and annoyed the Indians and light troops of the enemy approaching from the woods. Lieut. Fontaine in his zeal to meet the enemy was unfortunately wounded and made prisoner. Lieut. Bird was active and useful, and, in fact, every individual of the corps did their duty.

The detachment of Scott's gallant brigade, consisting of parts of the 9th, 11th and 22d Infantry, did its duty in a manner worthy the high reputation the brigade had acquired at Chippawa, and at the Falls of Niagara. The 9th, under the command of Capt. E. Foster, was actively engaged against the left of the enemy, and with his and Lieut. Douglass's corps of bombardiers commanding the water battery, and of that of the volunteers under Captains Boughton and Harding, effected their repulse. The good conduct of Lieuts. Childs, Cushman and Foote, and Ensign Blake, deserves commendation.

The officers killed are Captain Williams and Lieut. McDonough of the artillery. Wounded—6 other subaltern officers, severely.

Lieut. Fontaine of the artillery, who was taken prisoner, writes from the British camp that he fortunately fell into the hands of the Indians, who after taking his money treated him kindly. It would seem then that these savages had not joined in the resolution to give no quarters.

Brigadier-General Ripley to General Gaines.

FORT ERIE, August 17th, 1814.

SIR,—I take the liberty of reporting to you the course of operations on the left flank of the camp during the action of the 15th instant.

From indications satisfactory to me I was persuaded very early of the enemy's design of attacking us in our position. Before any alarm, I caused my brigade to occupy their alarm posts. On the first fire of the picket, Captain Towson opened his artillery upon them from Fort Williams in a style that does him infinite credit. It was continued with very great effect upon the enemy during the whole action.

The enemy advanced with fixed bayonets and attempted to enter our works between the fort and the water. They brought ladders for the purpose of scaling, and in order to prevent their troops from resorting to any other course excepting the bayonet, had caused all the flints to be taken from their muskets. The

column that approached in this direction consisted of Colonel Fischer's command and amounted in number to at least 1,500 men, and according to representations of prisoners they were 2,000 strong. The companies posted at the point of the works which they attempted to escalade were Captain Ross's, Captain Marston's, Lieutenant Bowman's and Lieutenant Larned's of the 21st Regiment, not exceeding 250 men, under the command of Major Wood of the Engineer corps. On the enemy's approach, they opened their musketry in a manner the most powerful. Fort Williams and this little band emitted one broad uninterrupted sheet of light. The enemy were repulsed. They rallied, came on a second time to the charge, and a party waded round our line by the lake and came in on the flank, but a reserve of two companies posted in the commencement of the action to support this point marched up and fired upon the party, who were all killed or taken. Five times in this manner did the enemy advance to the charge: five times were their columns beaten back in confusion by a force one-sixth of their numbers, till at length finding the contest unavailing they retired. At this point we made 147 prisoners.

During the contest in this quarter the lines of the whole of the left wing were perfectly lined in addition to the reserves, and I found myself able to detach three companies of the 23rd Regiment from the left to reinforce the troops at Fort Erie, viz: Captain Wattle's, Lieutenant Cantine's and Lieutenant Brown's companies, and one of the 19th under Captain Chunn. They were in the fort during the time of the explosion, and their conduct is highly spoken of by Major Brooke, their commanding officer. Indeed from the high state to which that regiment has been brought by Major Brooke, I am convinced that no troops will behave better.

In submitting to your view the conduct of the troops under my command on this occasion, I find everything to applaud and nothing to reprehend. The utmost coolness and subordination was manifested both by the 21st and 23rd Regiments. To Major Wood I feel particularly indebted. This officer's merits are so well known that approbation can scarcely add to his reputation. He has the merit with this Spartan band, in connexion with Captain Towson's Artillery, of defeating a vaunting foe of six times his force. Major Brooke did everything in his power, and it affords me pleasure at all times to call the attention of the General commanding to this amiable and accomplished officer.

The officers commanding companies immediately engaged have my highest commendation. Their conduct was most judicious and gallant. I cannot refrain from adverting to the manner in which Captain Towson's Artillery was served. I have never seen it

equalled. This officer has so often distinguished himself that to say simply that he is in action is a volume of eulogium; the army only to be informed he is there, by a spontaneous assent are at once satisfied that he has well performed his part. I have no idea that there is an artillery officer in any service superior to him in the knowledge and performance of his duty.

The officers I have mentioned as commanding companies of the 21st and 23rd Regiments are particularly commended by their commanding officers. Captain Marston, a most valuable officer, commanded a first line of three companies opposed to the enemy's column. Captain Ropes commanded the companies of reserve. Major Wood reports in the highest terms of the good conduct of the subalterns, Lieutenant Riddle of the 15th, attached to the 21st, and Ensigns Bean, Jones, Cumming and Thomas of the 19th, as being extremely active and performing their duties with alacrity.

The manner in which Lieutenant Belknap of the 23rd retired with his picket guard from before the enemy's column excites my particular commendation. He gave orders to fire three times, as he was retreating to camp, himself bringing up the rear. In this gallant manner he kept the light advance of the enemy in check for a distance of two or three hundred yards. I have to regret that when entering our lines after his troops the enemy pushed so close upon him that he received a severe wound from a bayonet.

Lieutenants Bushnel and Cissney of the 19th, while gallantly engaged with the enemy at Fort Erie, were both severely if not mortally wounded. Their conduct merits the warmest approbation.

Permit me to recommend to your notice the good conduct of my staff, Lieutenant Kirby of the Corps of Artillery, my aid-de-camp, and Lieutenant Holding, Acting-Brigade-Major. Their activity and zeal was entirely to my satisfaction.

I close this long report with stating to you in the highest terms of approbation the skilfulness exhibited by Doctor Fuller, surgeon of the 23rd, and Doctor Trowbridge, surgeon of the 21st Infantry, with their mates, Dr. Gale of the 23rd and Doctors Everett and Allen of the 21st. Their active, humane and judicious treatment of the wounded, both of the enemy and of our own, together with their steady and constant attention to the duties of their station, must have attracted your attention, and I am confident will receive your approbation.

Report of the Killed, Wounded and Prisoners taken at the Battle of Erie, U. C., August 15th, 1814.

Killed—left on the field, 222: wounded—left on field, 174: prisoners—186. Grand total, 582.

Two hundred supposed to be killed on the left flank (in the water) and permitted to float down the Niagara. The number on the right flank near the woods could not be ascertained.

Given at the Inspector-General's office, Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

NATHL. N. HALL,
Asst.-Inspt.-Gen.

Brigadier-General Gaines to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE,
UPPER CANADA, August 26th, 1814.

SIR,—In my report of the battle of the 15th instant, I inadvertently omitted the names of Captain Chunn of the 19th, Lieutenants Bowman and Larned of the 21st, and Jewitt of the 11th Infantry, as also of my brigade-major, Lieutenant Gleason, each of whom bore a conspicuous part in the action, and whom I beg leave to recommend to your notice. Lieutenants Bowman and Larned commanded companies in the 21st, which so gallantly beat the enemy's right column. Captain Chunn with his company was doing duty with the same regiment. I also omitted mentioning that a part of this regiment pursued the enemy's right upwards of a mile, and took 100 prisoners. His left was also pursued and more than an hundred prisoners were taken beyond our works. These facts prove that the affair was not merely a *defence* of our position, or a mere *repulse* of the enemy, as I find it called by some. As regards myself, I am satisfied with the result and am not disposed to make any difficulty about the name by which the affair may be called, but it is due to the brave men I have the honor to command that I should say that the affair was to the enemy a sore *beating* and a *defeat*, and it was to us a *handsome victory*.

Our position is growing stronger every day by the exertions of Majors McRea and Wood and the officers and men generally. We keep up a smart cannonade. One of the enemy's pickets yesterday approached nearer to ours than usual. Major Brooke, officer of the day, added 100 men to our picket, attacked and drove them in with considerable loss; the Major brought in about 30 muskets. In this affair, however, we have to lament the loss of another gallant officer, Captain Wattles of the 23rd; our loss was otherwise inconsiderable.

(Extracts.)

Charges Preferred Against General Gaines by Col. W. A. Trimble.

General Courtmartial Convened at New York, 2nd Sept., 1816.

CHARGE II.

Misconduct and Gross Injustice in Office.

Specification 2.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, being in command of the army of the United States in the battle of the 15th of August, 1814, at the fortified encampment aforesaid, during said battle ordered a small detachment of infantry and riflemen into Fort Erie not to act under the orders of Major Trimble, the officer commanding the fort, but under the direction of an officer of the staff with special orders to charge the northeast bastion of the fort, then in the possession of the enemy—orders which could not be successfully executed—prevented said detachment from being usefully employed, and exposed part of it to destruction without the possibility of subjecting the enemy to equal loss.

Spec. 3.—In this: That at the fortified encampment aforesaid between the 15th and 23d of August, 1814, the said Major-General Gaines, commanding as aforesaid, required many officers to report to him the conduct of their commands at the battle aforesaid, and, actuated by injustice and a vindictive spirit, did not require Major Trimble to report the conduct of his command in said battle, although he held throughout the said battle the separate and highly important command of Fort Erie, where the battle raged with great fury and the enemy was bravely and efficiently fought by said Tirmble's command, but required Major Hindman and Major Hall to report the operations in the fort, the former of which officers, being the senior officer of the artillery of the army under the said Major-General Gaines and having the general superintendence of all the artillery attached to said army, was not stationed in Fort Erie, and the command of Major Hall being confined to a small detachment, which was sent into the fort under special orders a very short time before the close of the action and which was, though bravely, worse than uselessly, employed on impracticable service, and neither of which officers had an opportunity to be acquainted with the general defence of the fort—conduct on the part of the said Maj.-Gen. Gaines calculated most unjustly to insult and wound the honorable sensibilities of Major Trimble and the officers and men of the infantry under his command, to exclude them from their rightful participation in the glory and honors of that battle, and to produce dissatisfaction and dissension in the service and injure its interests.

Spec. 4.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, in his principal detailed official report to the Secretary of War of the battle of the 15th of August, 1814, aforesaid, with malice and unjustly and contrary to his duty, concealed the fact that Major Trimble commanded Fort Erie during the said battle, and not only concealed said fact but endeavored to communicate the impression that he did not so command, and that in the first part of the action the fort was commanded by Captain Williams and afterwards by Major Hindman—the said Major-General Gaines having, in person, on the evening immediately preceding the action assigned the command of the fort to Major Trimble, and Major Trimble ranking both Captain Williams and Major Hindman and commanding the fort during the battle.

Spec. 5.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, in his aforesaid official report of the battle of Fort Erie, stated that the centre column of the enemy, led by Colonel Drummond, "approached at once every assailable part of the fort, and with scaling ladders ascended the parapet, but was repulsed with dreadful carnage. The assault was twice repeated and as often checked," whereas the whole efforts of said column of the enemy in the first part of the action and during the time alluded to in said statement, as said Maj.-Gen. Gaines knew or ought to have known, were directed against the north curtain of the fort (or north line of the redoubt connecting the bastions of the fort), and that the said Major-General Gaines in said statement and throughout said report omitted to mention that it was by the detachment of the 19th Infantry, stationed in the fort, that this service was performed; the said Major-General Gaines being careful in other parts of his report to state who were engaged in the services mentioned and alleged, herein misrepresenting the battle of Fort Erie, unjustly injuring the officers and men of the detachment of the 19th Infantry stationed in the fort, and acting with improper partiality towards other parts of the army he commanded, to the injury of the service.

Spec. 6.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, in his aforesaid official report of the battle of Fort Erie, represented and caused to be understood that the left column of the enemy, led by Col. Scott, was completely repulsed and finally driven from the contest by the American troops stationed to the right of Fort Erie and between the fort and the lake; and that the said Maj.-Gen. Gaines in his official report suppressed the facts that the said left column of the enemy, having advanced in the direction and within about 50 yards of an opening in the said line between the fort and the lake and being deterred from proceeding further in that

direction, and from entering said opening by an incessant blaze of fire from the Douglass battery and the artillery and infantry stationed on said line, moved promptly to the right, gained the ditch of the northeast bastion of the fort and was the first to assault and enter the bastion; that a large proportion of the prisoners remaining and taken in and near the fort belonged to the 103d Regiment; and that it was at the fort that Colonel Scott, who commanded said column, was mortally wounded, and Captain Elliott, who conducted it, was made prisoner; which facts the said Major-General Gaines at the time of making his said report ought to have known and did know; the said Major-General Gaines by said wilful misstatements and suppression of facts materially misrepresenting the battle to his government, unjustly depriving the garrison of Fort Erie, particularly the detachment of the 19th Infantry, of the credit of important services which they had performed, contrary to his duty, and to the injury of the service.

Spec. 7.—In this: That the said Major-Gen. Gaines, in his aforesaid official report of the battle of Fort Erie, stated that Captain Fanning of the corps of artillery kept up a spirited and destructive fire with field pieces on the enemy attempting to approach the fort, whereas no part of the centre and left columns of the enemy, the columns which attacked the fort, were within range of Captain Fanning's field pieces, and, if the Indians and light troops of the enemy in front of the encampment were referred to in said statement, there was not evidence nor ground of presumption to warrant the assertion that Capt. Fanning's fire, however spirited, was destructive, and the strong presumption was that it could not have been so.

And that the said Major-General Gaines in his official report stated that "Captain Fanning's battery likewise played upon them (the enemy) at this time with great effect," whereas at the time referred to the enemy were not within scope of Captain Fanning's battery, and of course could not have been played upon it with effect.

And that the said Major-General Gaines in said report represented and gave it to be understood that Brigadier-General Porter, commanding the New York and Pennsylvania Volunteers, and said volunteers generally, were engaged in action in the aforesaid battle at Fort Erie, and mentioned him and them with high commendation for their conduct in action therein, whereas Captain Boughton's and Captain Harding's companies, detached and distantly separated from General Porter's command in said battle, and not under his command therein, were the only part of said volunteers who fought or could be said to be engaged in action in said battle, they being

under the command of Lieut.-Col. Aspinwall on the right of the American position and acting with Capt. Foster of the 11th.

And that the said Major-General Gaines in his said official report stated that "Captain Birdsall of the 4th Rifle Regiment with a detachment of riflemen gallantly rushed in through the gateway" (of Fort Erie) "to their assistance," (meaning to the assistance of Major Hindman and Major Trimble,) "and with some infantry charged the enemy but was repulsed and the captain severely wounded," thereby exhibiting in detail with praise conduct *in Fort Erie*, which, though gallant, was of little or no avail, and of very short continuance.

And that the said Major-General Gaines, in his said official report, detailed, "that a detachment of the 11th, 9th and 22d Infantry, under Capt. Foster of the 11th, were introduced over the interior bastion" (of Fort Erie) "for the purpose of charging the enemy. Major Hall, Assistant-Inspector-General, very handsomely tendered his services to lead the charge. The charge was gallantly made by Capt. Foster and Major Hall, but owing to the narrowness of the passage up the bastion, admitting only two or three men abreast, it failed. It was often repeated and as often checked," thereby showing forth in detail and with praise, and calling the attention of his government to the conduct of officers and men *in Fort Erie*, who were sent into the fort only a short time before the close of the action, and, however bravely, were worse than uselessly employed on impracticable service, and for a few minutes only.

And that the said Major-General Gaines, in said official report, with malice omitted to mention the judicious arrangements and preparations which Major Trimble under the most embarrassing circumstances made for the defence of Fort Erie; the gallant manner in which the detachment of 19th Infantry, stationed in the fort, repelled the repeated assaults of the centre column of the enemy, and the prompt and skilful disposition made of said detachment, and the cool and desperate courage it displayed in the most hazardous situation and against a great superiority of force when the enemy obtained possession of the northeast bastion of the fort, that a part of said detachment was formed so as to command the gorge of said bastion, under cover of which line part of which detachment was thrown into the adjoining stone messhouse, and that thence a constant and destructive fire was kept up on the enemy, that a part of said detachment without the messhouse was posted in a situation which afforded it security and enabled it to pour into the bastion a direct and deadly fire; that the enemy repeatedly advanced from the bastion to gain possession of the fort, and twice attempted to force the door of the messhouse afore-

said, and were driven back with loss by said detachment of the 19th Infantry and a small detachment of artillery, which in the last attack were aided by Lieutenant John Brady who had just come into the fort with about twenty men of the 22d Infantry,—several of which circumstances were communicated in a written statement to the said Major-General Gaines before he forwarded or closed his said official report, and all of which circumstances and of the defence of Fort Erie generally the said Major-General Gaines might have obtained full information had he required it of Major Trimble, as it was his duty to have done, and that the said Major-General Gaines with malice omitted to allude to said circumstances in the particular manner in which they merited to be spoken of in the said report.

The said Major-General Gaines by said representations, wilfully incorrect statements and designed suppression of facts, in his said official report, ascribing services to officers and men which they did not peform, displaying services some of them performed *in Fort Erie* with disproportionate emphasis and minuteness and improper partiality, and unjustly concealing other services of much greater importance and usefulness performed in Fort Erie, grossly injuring and insulting Major Trimble and the officers and men of said detachment of the 19th Infantry, and very materially misrepresenting the battle of Fort Erie to his government, to the injury of the service.

Spec. 8.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, in his official report aforesaid, stated that "at this moment every operation was arrested by the explosion of some cartridges deposited in the end of the stone building adjoining the contested bastion. The explosion was tremendous—it was decisive—the bastion was restored," hereby very improperly misrepresenting the place of the explosion —the cartridges that exploded not being in the end of the stone building adjoining the contested bastion, but under the platform of the bastion, and the end of the stone building being occupied by his own troops, part of the 19th Infantry, who poured from it a constant and destructive fire on the enemy, and further, by the said statement, unjustly and to the great injury of part of his army, ascribing to an untoward accident a victory which had been insured by the valor and good conduct of his troops, who had fought the enemy without intermission and at first under the most disadvantageous circumstances for more than two hours—and the said Major-General Gaines knowing, or it being his duty to have known, that the enemy had been repeatedly repulsed and driven from the interior of the fort, that they had suffered extremely from the fire of the garrison, to which they could do but little injury, and that

had they remained in the bastion but a few minutes longer their capture or destruction might have been made certain.

CHARGE IV.

Neglect of Duty and Misconduct in Office.

Spec. 1.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, in his principal detailed official report to the Secretary of War of the battle of Fort Erie aforesaid, stated that "the small unfinished Fort Erie with a 24, 18 and 12-pounders forms the northeast, and the Douglass Battery, with an 18 and 6-pounder near the edge of the lake, the southeast angle of our right," there being, as it was the duty of the said Major-General Gaines to have known, six pieces of cannon in Fort Erie and but one, an 18-pounder, in the Douglass Battery.

Spec. 2.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, in his said official report, stated that "the front of our position had been strengthened by temporary *abatis*," &c., there being at the time, as it was the duty of the said Major-General Gaines to have known, on what he denominated the front of our position no *abatis* nor anything representing *abatis*.

Spec. 3.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, being in command of the army of the United States at Fort Erie and the adjoining fortified encampment, between the 5th and 15th of August, 1814, and having good reason to expect an attack from the army of the enemy under the command of Lieut.-General Drummond, greatly superior in numbers to his own army, neglected to strengthen and improve the defence and works of his said position to the extent he had the means and it was his duty to strengthen and improve them.

Spec. 4.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, being in command as aforesaid on the 14th of August, 1814, and having every reason to expect an attack from the enemy's army, under Lieut.-Gen. Drummond, neglected to make that arrangement and provision for the defence of Fort Erie which the place required, and which by a proper use of the means at his disposal he might have made; and that he intrusted the defence of that place, the key of his position, to about sixty artillerists and to about one hundred and eighteen infantry recruits who had never seen service and were placed in the fort under the most embarrassing and unfavorable circumstances.

Spec. 5.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines, on the 15th August, 1814, at the fortified encampment aforesaid, being then and there in command as aforesaid, made no attempt to intercept, capture, or destroy the right column of the enemy after it had

been effectually repulsed in the battle of the said 15th of August, from Towson's battery, and was retreating in great disorder without flints or cartridges.

Spec. 6.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines at the time and place last aforesaid, being then and there in command as aforesaid, neglected to make a sortie on the centre and left columns of the enemy when they were in great confusion in the northeast bastion of the fort and its surrounding ditches, in which last place they could have made but little resistance to an attack on their flank or rear.

Spec. 7.—In this: That the said Major-General Gaines at the time and place aforesaid, after the explosion of some ammunition under the platform of the before mentioned bastion, suffered the centre and left columns of the enemy, in great confusion and disorder and partly unarmed, to retire from Fort Erie over a plain without making or having made any effort or attempt to capture them.

Spec. 8.—In this: That the aforesaid Major-General Gaines at the time and place aforesaid, being then and there in command as aforesaid, neglected to avail himself of the advantages gained by the valour of his troops in the action fought between the American and British forces at Fort Erie and Towson's battery, on the said 15th August, the situation and condition of the British forces being such as would have exposed them to inevitable destruction had the American army been properly commanded.

Finding.

1st Nov., 1816.

The court do therefore honorably acquit him (General Gaines) of the same, and the court feel it to be due to the good of the service to pronounce that most of the charges appear to it as frivolous, and the whole of them without support or foundation.

(Sgd.) WINFIELD SCOTT,
Brevet Major-General, President.

Lieut. MacMahon to Mr. Wm. Jarvis.

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 22nd August, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have received and laid before the President your letter of the 17th, and am sorry that it is not in my power under present circumstances to prepare warrants for the payment of your office accounts to the 30th June. I have, however, obtained the letter of credit for fifty pounds sterling, which in the event of the warrants not being granted, you desire, and which you will receive herewith.

Since the assault of the fort on the morning of the 15th nothing of any moment has taken place between the armies. Cannonading and skirmishing daily takes place, in which there are always lives lost. The day before yesterday a serious one for the enemy took place with the Western Indians, in which the former lost about fifty, killed and wounded, and the latter only two. On this occasion the Indians behaved with great spirit and drove the enemy to their very works.

The result of an assault upon the fort we have great cause to lament, for our loss in valuable officers and the best of our men, which, including all ranks, was 920, was one which at the present moment we can but badly bear; and this is the more to be regretted as the loss which the enemy sustained on the occasion did not exceed 50 men. A considerable portion of the loss on our part was occasioned by the explosion of a quantity of ammunition which the enemy had placed under the platform of the bastion at which our troops had entered and made a lodgment, and but for which the place would have been ours. It was not, however, intentionally placed there for the purpose, but, seeing the opportunity and availing himself of it, a corporal of American Artillery, having got on a red coat and the cap of a British deserter, and while it was scarce daylight, got in amongst our men, who were principally in and near this bastion, and appeared to make himself very busy in working the gun, which by this time had been turned against the enemy, and in the bustle he got under the platform and effected his purpose by a slow match. He had but just time himself to slink off and get behind a stone building in the fort when this unfortunate explosion took place, which has left the 103rd Regt., who were principally at that point, but a mere skeleton. Poor Col. Drummond, whose loss is universally deplored, Colonel Scott of the 103rd, Capt. Irwin of the same corps, Capt. Torrens of the Royals, and many others, some of whom from their mutilated state could not be identified, have fallen in this affair. Colonel Drummond was mortally wounded before the explosion, as was Col. Scott, but the other officers which I have mentioned were all blown up. Capt. Elliott of the Quartermaster-General's department was also blown up, but I am glad to say was only slightly wounded; he is prisoner. The 103rd have lost on that unfortunate morning, killed, wounded, &c., 370, and out of 18 officers present 14 were killed and wounded. De Watteville's Regiment, which were before held in high estimation, lost on that morning their claim to distinction. That corps with the King's and some of the flank companies of other regiments composed the right column, under Colonel Fischer of the former corps, which was destined to attack an important point of

the enemy's works, and it marched with the greatest steadiness and order till within about three hundred yards of the point of attack, when suddenly the Dutchmen caught a panic which no exertions of the officers could remove, and that regiment, being strong and rather near the head of the column, when they turned all the other corps in rear, who were weak, were compelled to give way.

The enemy kept up a most tremendous fire of musquetry and artillery from half-past two o'clock until daylight, when our troops retired, during which time a single shot was not discharged by us, the whole dependence being placed in the bayonet when the troops should enter the works for the accomplishment of the object, and to prevent the possibility of men breaking through the orders the flints were all taken out of the musquets. The enemy maintained their ground with bravery, but then they had all the firing to themselves, and few of our men came in contact with them. We were for a day or two greatly dispirited, but it is now dispelled and the troops in high spirits once more. We are preparing again for offensive operations.

Believe me, dear sir, faithfully yours,

EDW. MACMAHON.

William Jarvis, Esq.

Extract from a Letter from Col. J. Le Couteur to Col. H. Le Couteur.

17 CHAPEL STREET,
BELGRAVIA, 29th July, 1869.

MY DEAREST HALKETT,—I was greatly interested in that part of your letter in which you tell of my gallant friend's death, Col. Scott of the 103d, at the storming of Fort Erie.

After we were blown up, some three or four hundred men, by the springing of the mine or magazine in Fort Erie, on recovering my senses from being blown off the parapet some twenty feet into the ditch, which was filled with burnt and maimed men, the Yankees relined their works and fired heavily into the ditch.

My colonel, Drummond of Keltie, had commanded the right attack, Col. Scott the left attack. Finding that the ditch was not to be held under such disarray and such a fire, several of us jumped over the scarp and ran over the plain to our lines. Lieut. Fallon of the 103d, who was desperately wounded, was caught by his sling belt in a log and thought to die there; however, I said to my grenadier friend, "Jack, my boy, put your arm over my neck and I will take you round the waist and run you into the lines." The Yankees were then pelting us with grape and musketry. As we

jogged on I saw an officer carried on his back in some sort of a stretcher and I said to the four men, "Who is that officer?" "Col. Scott, sir, shot through the head," where I saw the bullet mark in the noble man's forehead. When I got my friend into the lines, regardless of who was by, in a fit of sorrow, I threw my sabre down exclaiming, "This is a disgraceful day for Old England." Col. M., who heard me, said, "For shame, Mr. Le Couteur! The men are sufficiently discouraged by defeat." Col. Pearson said, "Don't blame him! It is the high feeling of a young soldier." To my surprise the commander-in-chief, Sir Gordon Drummond, had heard all this as he was close behind and asked me, "Where is Col. Scott?" "Oh! Sir! He is killed, just being brought in by his men." "Where is Col. Drummond?" "Alas! Sir! He is killed too! Bayonetted!" And I burst into tears at the loss of my beloved commander and three parts of my men. Sir Gordon immediately gave me orders to collect all the stragglers, line the works, and prepare to resist an attack should the Yankees assault our works, which they did not do.

Poor Drummond's body remained in the American lines blown up. Col. Scott received a soldier's funeral—a most amiable and gallant officer; indeed, there were no two more heroic men in our army.

Dr. Young, Surgeon of 103rd Regiment, to Mr. James Scott, Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh.

QUEBEC, 20th December, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I wrote you in August last announcing the death of your much lamented brother, the late Col. Scott. Part of the regiment arrived here a few days ago and the rest are on their way for this place, where we are to winter. On their arrival I expect to be able to settle all the concerns of your brother in the regiment and send you a statement of them. The affairs of the regiment have been in much confusion of late from the loss of so many of the principal officers, viz.: your brother and the adjutant and Capt. Irwin, the acting paymaster, &c., and the corps have not been together, and they have suffered severely from sickness.

I informed you in my last that your brother on being wounded was attended by some of our men and one of the assistant surgeons of the 89th Regt. He inquired for me, and as I was not present he directed that all his effects should be given to me. In consequence of this Lieut.-Col. Smelt desired me to take charge of his property and to settle his affairs, and if I required it that he would give me every assistance in his power, and to write you the particulars of

his last moments. Altho' I had the honor of being more in your brother's confidence than any one in the regiment, he never hinted anything to me concerning his affairs in this country in case of his fall. I suppose he considered them of too trivial a nature, as he had left his will at home. The night of the attack I slept on the ground with him under a piece of canvas suspended from a branch of a tree, but not sufficient to protect us from the inclemency of a dreadful rainy night. I asked him his opinion of the attack; he spoke unfavorably of it, yet tho' drenched with rain he was in high spirits, and his last words to me before he led off the corps were: "We shall breakfast together in the fort in the morning." Alas! when I saw him again he was mortally wounded and he could not speak to me, but the slight pressure from his hand and the languid expression of his countenance seemed to say, "I am dying! Farewell! I leave you my best wishes."

Extract from Dr. Young's Letter of Aug. 18th, 1814, to Mr. Scott.

Your brother was wounded in the fort. He was carried off by a sergeant of grenadiers and one of the men. His remains were interred on the evening of the day on which he fell. We had a coffin made by the regimental carpenters, who have since enclosed his grave with a wooden paling. His funeral was attended by three officers and myself, the whole that remained untouched after the attack.

Sir George Prevost to Lieut.-General Drummond.

(Secret.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 25th July, 1814.

SIR,—I have had the honor of your letter of the 20th inst. transmitting four letters (originals) from Major-General Riall, with their enclosures from Lieut.-Colonel Tucker of the 41st and Major Evans of the King's Regiment. The events detailed in these, which have lately taken place on the Niagara frontier, are highly creditable to the steadiness and gallantry of the troops, and to the skill and judgment of the officers in command of them.

The general features of the campaign have been so much the subject of my late communications that but little remains for me to add.

Your local knowledge will give you great advantage and much is left to your discretion, upon which I have the fullest reliance.

Should the enemy remain at Queenston after the concentration of our forces upon the 12 or 20-Mile Creek has taken place, would

it not be expedient to cross over some troops to Fort Niagara for the purpose of being detached from thence to Lewiston to deprive the Americans of that *debouche* to retreat.

The movement from the fort ought to be simultaneous with the advance upon Queenston Heights. It appears to me that the sooner you commence molesting General Brown's line of communication and by which he obtains his supplies, the easier will his task prove.

It is now stated that Commodore Chauncey's squadron will not be ready to take the lake before the end of the month. If that information prove correct and Brown's army remains stationary at Queenston, I have hopes it will not escape without a severe retribution for the evils it has inflicted. I have enumerated in the margin the corps with and destined for the Right and Centre Divisions ; the expansion of the force to the Right Division must depend on the success of your operations, never losing sight of the principal object of the campaign, the destruction of Sackett's Harbour.

Major-General Powers' brigade consisting of the 3rd, 5th, 27th and 58th Regiments, from Bordeaux, is in the river, and part of it has arrived at Quebec. It left Bordeaux on the 5th June.

(Memo. in the Margin.)

Proposed force of the Right Division :

1st Battn. Royals.
6th Regt.
1st Battn. King's.
41st Regt.
82d do .
89th do .
100th do .
103d do .
104th flank companies.
Canadian Fencibles.
Glengarry Light Infantry.
De Watteville's Regiment.
Exclusive of cavalry, artillery, militia and Indian warriors.

Proposed force of the Centre Division :

16th Regt.
90th do .
97th do .
104th do .
Nova Scotia Fencibles.
Exclusive of artillery, cavalry and militia.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 183.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 5th August, 1814.

MY LORD,—I had the honor of addressing Your Lordship on the 13th of last month, for the purpose of reporting that the enemy crossed the Niagara River on the 3rd, and of stating the events that had resulted from that movement.

As soon as I became acquainted with the intention of His Majesty's government strongly to reinforce the army in the North American Provinces, the troops in Lower Canada not immediately employed in opposing the advance of the United States commanded by Major-General Izard against the Richelieu frontier, were pushed forward under Major-General Conran to replace those Lieutenant-General Drummond had drawn from York and Kingston, with the view of strengthening the Right Division, to the command of which Lieutenant-General Drummond had repaired with characteristic promptitude before my wishes on the subject could be made known to him.

I have the high satisfaction of transmitting to Your Lordship Lieutenant-General Drummond's detail of the distinguished exertions of that division of the army near the Falls of Niagara on the 25th of last month, when the skill and the valour and discipline of his troops were eminently conspicuous, and I beg leave to join the Lieutenant-General in soliciting His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's gracious reward of the officers particularized in his report.

Major-General Conran arrived at Fort George with a wing of De Watteville's Regiment on the 29th ulto.—the remainder of that corps, with the 6th and 82nd Regiments, were fast approaching York. I have just received a report that His Majesty's ships *York* and *Vengeur* are at anchor in the river, and that the transports under their convoy with troops from France are arriving at Quebec.

This despatch will be delivered to Your Lordship by Captain Jervois, aide-de-camp to Lieutenant-General Drummond. Having shared in the events of the 25th, he can satisfy Your Lordship's enquiries respecting them, and he is well calculated to give Your Lordship full information upon the state of the Upper Province.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

(No. 184.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 5th August, 1814.

MY LORD,—Intelligence has just reached me that Commodore Chauncey's squadron was under weigh and cruising out of Sackett's

Harbor on the 1st inst., probably for the purpose of proceeding off Niagara in order to co-operate with Major-General Brown.

This fleet will arrive too late to be any material service to the American army. It is perhaps intended to receive on board all the troops which can be procured from that frontier in order to convey them to Sackett's Harbour, there to be reinforced by the disposable part of that garrison and then to attempt the execution of part of General Armstrong's plan of operations towards the close of this campaign, particularly the interruption of the intercourse between the two Provinces.

Your Lordship may rely on my adopting every practicable precautionary measure to prevent the success of such a design.

The transports with the two last brigades of troops from Bordeaux are approaching Quebec, where arrangements have been made for their being pushed forward without a moment's delay. But notwithstanding every exertion, it will be impossible to collect the whole force in the neighborhood of this place before the end of the present month.

This circumstance is the less to be regretted as our fleets on the lakes cannot attain a sufficient strength to co-operate with the divisions of the army assembling for the destruction of Sackett's Harbour and the occupation of Plattsburg before the 15th of next month, and without their aid and protection nothing could be undertaken affording a reasonable hope of substantial advantage.

The State of Vermont having shown a decided opposition to the war and very large supplies of specie daily coming in from thence, as well as the whole of the cattle required for the use of the troops, I mean for the present to confine myself in any offensive operations which may take place to the western shore of Lake Champlain.

Sir George Prevost to Lieut. General Drummond.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 13th August, 1814.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 31st ulto. and 4th inst. I have only to observe in reply that your suggestion respecting Kingston has been anticipated by the arrangements which have been made for assembling in the first instance General Kempt's brigade at this place and the allotment of it for the service you mention.

I have remarked with pain and mortification the conduct of the troops under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Tucker in the enterprise entrusted to him on the right bank of the Niagara river, and must confess I had expected a very different result.

The enemy appear to have made extraordinary exertions since the last action, for the defence of the position they have taken up. The caution, therefore, with which you have acted in the previous measures to an attack upon them I cannot but commend as being the best calculated to obtain the end wished for—the defeat and expulsion of the enemy without an unnecessary effusion of blood.

I am in hopes that the fire of your batteries, which I observe by a letter from Colonel Harvey of the 6th inst. were to open on the 7th, will have all the effect you expect from them, particularly their vertical fire and rockets, which will be most likely to intimidate the enemy.

Precautionary measures ought immediately to be taken to replace from the depots at Kingston the small arm and great gun ammunition which shall be expended on the Niagara frontier.

The reports received from Kingston of the return of Chauncey to Sackett's Harbour on the 9th, lead me to hope that the 6th and 82nd Regiments will have no difficulty in joining you. Strengthened by such a description of men as they are composed of, you will be competent to resist any efforts of the enemy, however they may be reinforced, and I trust finally to expel them.

The measures you shall adopt for that purpose will, I am satisfied, be prudent and proper.

Whilst such important operations have been pending, Major Coore has acted right in availing himself of my instructions to remain at your headquarters.

Sir George Prevost to Lieut.-General Drummond.

(An Intercepted Letter.)

MONTREAL, Aug. 26, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official letters of the 15th and 16th with their enclosures, and a private one of the 17th inst.

I do most deeply regret the sequel of the gallant enterprise which put into your possession two of the enemy's schooners. You appear to have been inclined to precipitate the attack of Fort Erie by a desire to reap the full benefit of the spirit of emulation produced by that daring achievement. If the object had been accomplished, a scrutiny of the operations to attain it would have been equally excited, and it is not in reproach of its failure that I observe to you that night attacks made with heavy troops are very objectionable, principally because chance and not skill too frequently decide the contest, and that at night difficulties and dangers are ever magnified, particularly when they present themselves un-

expectedly, and in the latter case the best disciplined troops are placed only on a level with raw and unformed soldiers.

It is to be inferred from Lieut.-Colonel Fischer's report and your statement that the Right Column was not sufficiently prepared for the obstacles it had to surmount in attaining the point of attack, otherwise neither hesitation nor consternation would have presented themselves.

I acknowledge that I feel apprehensive you have rather yielded to than approved the eagerness of the Right Division to increase its fame, before you were sufficiently prepared for the enterprise. Your skill and excellent judgment will profit by experience in your future operations, by guarding you against public opinion, however clamorous, when it would sacrifice your well-earned reputation and the honor and safety of the army placed under your command.

I sincerely hope the candor with which I have disclosed my sentiments on your last operation will be to you their best apology. They flow from a source unpolluted by any invidious feeling.

The 37th is ordered to Kingston, from whence General Stovin is desired to send you the 97th or any other corps you may have demanded. Major-General Kempt with the remainder of the troops will soon follow. My views in sending that officer to Kingston will be developed to you by the Adjutant-General.

Sir George Prevost to Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond.

(An Intercepted Letter.)

MONTREAL, Aug. 26th, 1814.

SIR,—Major Coore has this moment delivered to me your letter of the 16th. I view with pain the agony of mind you experience from the unfortunate termination of the night attack you had been induced to make on the 15th, and would gladly soothe your feelings on the occasion by anything I could offer in addition to the sentiments you will find expressed in the letter I addressed to you this morning, but all I have heard since has confirmed my prejudices to highly important operations being performed in the dark. Too much was required from De Watteville's Regiment so situated and deprived, as I am told they were, of their flints. The attempt has proved a costly experiment, and its result will be severely felt.

As you have fixed on the 90th, orders shall be given for that regiment to proceed to you without delay. I had intended the 97th for that service as being men of a hardy description, but the numbers of the 90th will probably make them equally useful to you. When this regiment, together with the 6th and 82nd, shall have

joined you, you will, I have no doubt, be enabled to efface the recollection of the late disaster and to effect the expulsion of the enemy from the Province.

Sir George Prevost to Vice Admiral the Honorable Alexander Cochrane.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 30th July, 1814.

SIR,—Since writing to you on the 20th June last communicating the wanton destruction of private property on the north shore of Lake Erie, a repetition of similar outrages has taken place on the Niagara frontier. The enemy crossed the Niagara river with 6,000 men on the 3d of July, and having immediately afterwards got possession of Fort Erie advanced towards Chippawa, where Major-General Riall had collected about 1,500 troops, exclusive of militia and Indians. With this small force, he on the 5th anticipated the attack which the enemy had intended to make on his position on the following day, and after a severe contest of several hours, in consequence of the great inferiority in his numbers, he was obliged to retire to his lines at Chippawa with great loss. Two days afterwards, his position being turned, he retreated to Fort George, and the American army advanced to Queenston.

In this situation it remained for nearly three weeks, occasionally making a demonstration for attacking the forts, but evidently waiting for the co-operation of the fleet from Sackett's Harbour. During this time the possession by the enemy of Queenston and St. David's with a force far superior to any we could oppose to it, enabled them to follow up with impunity the same disgraceful mode of warfare to which they have hitherto so frequently resorted, the wanton destruction of private property. The villages of Queenston and St. David's were committed to the flames by them and totally destroyed.

Lieutenant-General Drummond arrived at Fort George on the 24th, and the enemy, despairing of any co-operation from the fleet, began on the following day to retreat from Queenston. Major-General Riall being immediately pushed forward with the advance to harass them on their retreat, was attacked by their whole force on the evening of that day, and General Drummond shortly afterwards coming up with the remainder of our disposable troops on that frontier, a general action commenced, which terminated at midnight by the total discomfiture of the enemy. I have not yet received the official details of the action, but the enclosed will give you the substance of the information which has reached me respecting it.

You will observe by it that the enemy on the last moment of retiring added another act of wanton outrage to those before committed, by the destruction of Messrs. Clarke and Street's mills, the most useful and valuable in the country, and the loss of which will be long and severely felt by the peaceful and unoffending inhabitants, who were accustomed to resort to them with their grain.

These events so dishonorable to the American character, so little merited by the forbearance I have practiced, I deem it my duty to bring under your consideration as affording ample grounds of justification for any conflagrations which may have taken place on the coast, and as calling loudly for a severe retribution, which I trust when opportunities offer you will not fail to inflict.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

(No. 187.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 14th August, 1814.

MY LORD,—Since I had the honor of addressing Your Lordship on the 5th inst., it has been ascertained that the enemy's squadron sailed from Sackett's Harbour on the 4th with reinforcements of troops for General Brown's army, which were disembarked on the 6th a few miles below the fort of Niagara, near a road leading to Buffalo.

The fleet afterwards made its appearance off York and Kingston, and are now blockading the latter port. The naval ascendency possessed by the enemy on Lake Ontario enables him to perform in two days what our troops going from Kingston to reinforce the Right Division require from sixteen to twenty of severe marching to accomplish; their men arrive fresh, whilst ours are fatigued and with an exhausted equipment. The route from Kingston to the Niagara frontier exceeds two hundred and fifty miles, and passes in several places through a tract of country impracticable for the conveyance of extensive supplies. By our exertions the Right Division has been placed beyond the apprehension of any material want before the period fixed by Sir James Yeo for taking the lake with his augmented fleet; until then our best endeavors will be used to prevent the enemy from making a serious impression on the Upper Province. Whilst Kingston is blockaded, Your Lordship must be aware that no movement against Sackett's Harbour can take place. It will require extreme vigilance to prevent the interruption of our intercourse from hence with that post, and to secure the highly important supplies which are at this moment on their way for an ulterior service and for the armament of the large ship,

as well as the transport of the frame and stores of one of our frigates.

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The accompanying despatch from Lieut.-General Drummond addressed to me, together with the reply I made, will show Your Lordship the exact state of our affairs on the Niagara frontier on the 6th inst., at which time the enemy did not manifest any disposition to recross the Niagara River, an event not to be regretted provided our resources are sufficient (as I trust they are) to compel them to lay down their arms or to attempt such a retreat as cannot fail to prove disastrous to them.

It is with regret I state to Your Lordship that it appears by Lieut.-Colonel Harvey's letter of the 6th, referred to in my reply to General Drummond's despatch, that Major-General Conran, who had just assumed the command of the Right Division, had been so much injured by a severe fall from his horse as to be incapable of serving for some time. Another Major-General has been immediately ordered forward to supply his place.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.
(No. 189.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 27th August, 1814.

MY LORD,—The successful result of the gallant enterprise against the enemy's small vessels laying off Fort Erie, as detailed in the enclosed extract of a despatch from Lieut.-General Drummond, having encouraged the expectation that a favorable period had arrived for attacking the enemy in their entrenchment, the Lieut.-General was induced to order an assault upon Fort Erie and the works connected with it before the break of day on the 15th inst.

It is with deep concern I have now to acquaint Your Lordship that notwithstanding there was the fairest prospect of success at the commencement of the attack, our troops were afterwards obliged to retire without accomplishing their object and with very considerable loss.

To Lieut.-General Drummond's official report on this subject (a copy of which I have the honor of transmitting) I beg leave to refer Your Lordship for the causes of our failure. It is, however, highly satisfactory to know that until the unfortunate explosion took place, and until His Majesty's troops by their near approach to the *abatis* in front of the intrenchments met such difficulties in penetrating as were found to be insurmountable without the aid of light, they behaved with their usual gallantry and discipline, and

had gained by their determined efforts advantages which accident alone appears to have compelled them to forego.

By accounts from Major-General Drummond to the 18th inst., I find he has since the 15th been joined by the 82nd Regiment and that the 6th was on the way and would probably be with the Right Division by this time. These regiments and reinforcements which are proceeding to the Right Division will fully supply the late losses and enable the Lieut.-General again to commence offensive operations against the enemy's position.

(Extract.)

No. 190.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 27th August, 1814.

MY LORD,—

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The vacillatory communications I have received from Sir James Yeo put it out of my power to state to Your Lordship exactly when the first-rate ship building at Kingston will be launched, but from the representations of Major Coore, my aide-de-camp, who is just returned from the Right Division, it is not probable can take place before the middle of next month, and in consequence all hopes of seeing our squadron on Lake Ontario before the first week in October have vanished.

The most pressing and important service to be performed by the Commodore as soon as his squadron shall have acquired the ascendence is the conveyance of fresh troops, with a large proportion of provisions and supplies of every description, to York and the Niagara frontier before the navigation closes, and to bring from those places to Kingston the exhausted corps, the disabled and the sick who can endure transport.

In the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieut.-General Drummond on the subject of supplies, Your Lordship will find there is ample cause for the anxiety I experience respecting our naval preparations, as well as for the delay in the arrival of provisions sufficient for ten thousand men for six months, which Your Lordship in your secret dispatch of the 3d of June did me the honor to announce as ordered to be immendiately shipped for Quebec.

The resources of the Upper Province being exhausted, a large supply of provisions of every nature must be thrown into it before the navigation of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario becomes impracticable. Unfortunately our magazines do not afford salt provisions for the purpose, and of that important article much will be required, more, I apprehend, than it will be possible to transport

from Quebec to Kingston unless winter is more backward in its approach than usual, or that the supply is nearer at hand than I contemplate.

In fact, my Lord, two-thirds of the army in Canada are at this moment eating beef provided by American contractors, drawn principally from the States of Vermont and New York. This circumstance, as well as the introduction of large sums of specie into this Province, being notorious in the United States, it is to be expected that Congress will take steps to deprive us of those resources, and under that apprehension large droves are daily crossing the lines coming into Lower Canada.

The accompanying report from Commissary-General Robinson will enable Your Lordship to judge of some of the difficulties which attend the operations in this country, and to see that the supplies of our army are not the least, but that they augment as war is protracted.

Commissary-General W. H. Robinson to Sir George Prevost.

MONTREAL, 27th August, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to Your Excellency that I this day received a letter from Deputy-Commissary-General Couche, covering a communication from Deputy-Commissary-General Turquand, which excites in my mind the greatest alarm on account of the want of provisions on the Niagara line. I had been led to believe the right division consisted of about nine thousand men entitled to draw provisions, including Indians, and that there was an ample supply to serve that number to the 1st October. But I now learn with extreme concern that fourteen thousand rations are issued daily, one-half of these to Indians and their families, and that the present state of the magazines does not admit of a hope that the army can, with every exertion of the commissariat attached to the right division, be victualled beyond the middle of next month, though I have every reliance on the zeal and abilities of Commissary-General Turquand.

The season of the year is unfavorable there for procuring flour, as the crop of last year must be consumed and that of the present harvest is not yet available, even if the mills had not been destroyed by the enemy.

With respect to cattle, I need not inform Your Excellency that the constant drain upon the country for fresh meat for the troops, the depredations of the enemy and the Indians, have entirely exhausted the Upper Province of any kind of meat. Foreseeing the evils I have now the honor to represent, I have not failed

to throw a large quantity of provisions into Kingston, a return of which is enclosed as late as the 20th inst.

The difficulties in accomplishing this object are well known to Your Excellency even if nothing but provisions had been required, but when it is considered the immense quantity of naval stores that have been transported to meet the common expenditure of an extensive dockyard to construct frigates and ships of the first rate, with their armament, ordnance and other stores, besides all the hospital, barrack, engineer, and regimental stores, with the innumerable other articles requisite for the supply of forts, garrisons, and camps, I feel confident that the exertions of my department will be acknowledged, and that they have exceeded the expectations of Your Excellency as much as I confess they have done my own. For the impediments of the navigation, the scarcity of workmen, laborers and *voyageurs*, are not to be described—in fact they are incalculable, yet they have been surmounted hitherto and at a time when the supply of all the posts in this district, the arrival of troops, and the general increase of every establishment and of the military force throughout the Canadas, forming, it may be said, a new era in the present war, have all called for new and incessant efforts, as all these circumstances necessarily create fresh labors in the commissariat. Deputy-Commissary Couche has endeavored by every means to forward supplies to the head of Lake Ontario, and several small vessels were despatched while the enemy's squadron were unable to leave Sackett's Harbor, but as the exertions of the enemy have been more successful than ours in completing ships sufficient to command the navigation of the lake, that resource is for the moment cut off and only batteaux can be employed. These are a very useful conveyance, not only from the danger of the enemy's small vessels which can approach the shore without difficulty, but also from the want of proper steersmen, pilots, and middlemen.

Mr. Couche has, however, succeeded in despatching twenty-four batteaux loaded with flour and pork, which have been chiefly manned by the soldiers of the Nova Scotia Fencibles and a few pilots, with great difficulty procured from the country. But this feeble means of transport will never effect the forming a sufficient depot at York, Burlington Heights and Niagara, and unless the commissariat can be aided to a great extent by the Royal Navy the most disastrous consequences must ensue, which no efforts, no arrangement of mine, can avert.

My only hope rests upon the prospect of our fleet being very soon superior to that of the enemy, when the first object, I trust, will be to convey provisions from Kingston to the head of the lake,

of the necessity of which it would be useless for me to dwell upon after the foregoing representations, for Your Excellency is aware that the road between Kingston and Niagara is not practicable for loaded wagons, therefore land carriage is out of the question, and the most ample assistance from the Royal Navy will be imperiously demanded as the only means of supporting the right division of the army.

On my part I shall continue the transport of provisions from hence to Kingston, but I am sorry to say I am not enabled to send any more salt meat at present, having already drained the stores of Lower Canada for the supply of Kingston as far as prudence would admit. The arrival of the June convoy will probably relieve my anxiety, though from its being so late I have many apprehensions, when the season of the year increases the difficulties of transport, as to the distribution of the expected supplies to all the posts from Quebec to Niagara, yet, if I am led to expect, the superiority on the lake is shortly obtained by the completion of the 100-gun ship now on the stocks and the required assistance from the squadron is afforded, the right division may be supported, but it never can be effected without cordial and efficient aid from the Royal Navy.

Sir G. Drummond to Sir J. Yeo.

HEADQUARTERS,
CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 18th Aug., 1814.

SIR,—I feel it incumbent on me to represent to you, that in consequence of the operations of this division being by the late unfortunate events protracted so much beyond the period which had been expected, and the consequent necessity of bringing forward to this position a greater force than was intended, its wants in provisions, ammunition, and stores of every kind, have become so alarmingly great and urgent that nothing but the assistance of the whole of H. M. squadron on Lake Ontario can enable it to continue its operations against the enemy, or even to retain its present position on this frontier. I enclose for your information a copy of the latest return of the provisions with this division. Of the utter impossibility of getting up an adequate or timely supply from Kingston in the present interrupted state of our communication, (a blockading squadron of the enemy's vessels being left off Niagara for the important object of obstructing it,) you are yourself perfectly aware. All, therefore, that can be done by your forces is to hasten the equipment of the new ship, and, the moment the squadron can sail, to push up to this point with every article of provisions and stores which the department of the army at Kingston

may apply to you to receive. If in the meantime any material supplies could by your force be pushed on to York, they will be most acceptable and invaluable.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS,
CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 21st Aug., 1814.

SIR,—Nothing important has occurred since my letter of the 15th. The troops have been refreshed, ammunition has been brought up, and a long 18-pdr. is on its way from Fort George. I have employed the engineer officers in selecting a site for a battery much nearer to the fort, and in different reconnoissances necessary to be made for this purpose we have had frequent occasions to drive in the enemy's picquets, which has always been done with loss on his part. Yesterday a feeble effort was made by the enemy to support his picquets, when our Indians behaved with uncommon spirit and drove back the whole of his riflemen, supported by some hundreds of his regular troops, without its being necessary for our troops to advance to their support. From the number of scalps that were taken by the Indians and the number of dead and wounded which were seen carried into the fort, the enemy must have lost 40 or 50 men in this affair. It also appears that a party of his riflemen must have fled with great precipitation, from the numbers of rifle-arms which have been brought in. The casualties of our Indians were only two wounded. Our troops are in the best spirits, those of the enemy very much depressed by the display of intrepidity on the part of our troops in the late attack, which they are in the nightly expectation of being repeated. The deserters to to us are on the average of 6 or 7 a day, and the fear of the Indians alone prevents greater numbers from coming over. We have very few desertions, and the troops bear the little privations and hardships of the service with great cheerfulness.

The battery which I propose to establish will be within 500 or 600 yards of the place; being in the centre of the woods it will require some days to cut and secure a communication to the spot. In the meantime gabions and fascines are constructing, and whenever the necessary previous arrangements are made the battery, (which I propose to consist of three heavy long guns and one 8 inch mortar, supported by the fire of a couple of guns in the present battery,) will be quickly thrown up and armed, and I hope by that time the arrival of the 6th Regt. and the remainder of the 82nd will place me in a situation to avail myself of the opening into the enemy's fort and works which the artillery and engineer officers

most confidently assure me its fire will certainly make in a very short time.

Within these last few days the enemy has endeavored to alarm me for the security of my communication to the rear, and has made a show of moving troops and boats in the direction of Schlosser, as if his object was an attempt on the two captured schooners, which are in the creek at Chippawa. In addition to their crews of seamen and marines, there is a detachment of 50 men with a 6 pdr. field piece at Chippawa, and I have ordered a couple of companies of militia to assemble there every night. It is my intention to order the remains of the 103d Regt. to this post on the arrival of the 6th. This post I have ordered to be placed in a defensible state and a new permanent bridge constructed according to the enclosed plans; in the meantime a temporary bridge passable for waggons and a scow for artillery have been constructed, and one of the guns, 12-pdr. from the schooners, has been placed in the old battery, which has been restored by the seamen. I have no apprehensions for the security of Chippawa or of my communications.

I must now speak to Your Excellency of the wants of this division and the mode of transporting the supplies.

Ammunition.—The battery of field guns on this frontier having, by some extraordinary mistake, been ordered by the commanding officer of artillery in Canada to be kept supplied with only 200 rounds per gun. To show the absolute unfitness of the person in the important situation of the assistant commissary in the field train department with this division, I enclose copy of a letter which he has addressed to the senior officer at Fort George for my information. Various instances of neglect have been reported to me and have fallen under my observation, (but which I have not now time to particularize,) make me desirous that Mr. Assistant Commissary Gordon should be immediately relieved here in his important charge by a proper officer, and that a sufficient number of inferior officers may be appointed to make the department efficient.

Artillery.—It is absolutely necessary that at least another efficient company should be sent up. Weak as the regiments are here, they are obliged to furnish additional gunners and drivers to enable us to man our guns. Regular officers of drivers are much wanted, the only regular officer (Lieut. Jack) having gone down, there remains only one Provincial officer of that corps with this division.

Artificers.—A company of sappers and miners is equally required at this advanced season. Not only no preparations have been

made, but we possess no means of making anything like adequate preparations for covering the troops which it may be necessary to retain on this frontier during the approaching winter. The Deputy-Commissary-General reports that such is the distress and suffering of the country, and the want of population as of energy in what remains, that he has not yet been able to make a single contract for the supply of fuel for the troops.

Provisions.—By the beginning of next month we are likely to begin to experience the most alarming deficiency, even in the grand essential of flour. Spirits also, I fear, will by that time fail, and if that should unfortunately be the case the health of the troops must, (particularly if they remain in the field,) suffer, and the diseases of last campaign may again thin our ranks; hitherto they are uncommonly healthy—this I am confident must in a great measure be attributed to an extra allowance of half a gill of spirits, which I have authorized and which I propose to continue as long as I have the means and the troops continue in the field. I have also found it necessary to authorize the daily issue of the ration of spirits to the staff officers, who have no greater means in the present state of this division of procuring wine, &c., than the regimental officers. Transcripts of the order are enclosed.

Barracks.—Stores of every description, particularly stoves, of which there are abundance at Kingston.

Of the various wants as above enumerated, the whole, with the exception of the artillery and artificers, can, I believe, be supplied from Kingston. As to the mode of transport, Your Excellency will at once see that it is by the *squadron alone* that relief can reach us, and from the accounts I have lately received of the state of forwardness of the new ship I really begin to fear that relief by this mode may not reach us in time. I enclose copy of a letter which I have thought it incumbent on me to address to Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo on this subject. I have to entreat that Your Excellency will make such further communications as may appear necessary to urge the Commodore to use all possible expedition in preparing the squadron for that service, which is certainly far more important than any other on which it can be employed, as on its rapid and successful performance depends the fate of this division.

I propose that the 90th Regt. should come up in the squadron, and to send down some of the most exhausted corps on its return.

I rejoice to find that so fine a force as that under Gen. Kempt has been ordered to Kingston, and as I am sanguine in hoping that by the return of the squadron I shall be enabled, after conducting my operations on this frontier to a successful and satisfactory issue,

to repair to Kingston myself in time to receive Your Excellency's orders respecting the operations of the force assembled there.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS,
CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 24th Aug., 1814.

SIR,—Nothing of importance has occurred since my letter of the 21st except the arrival of the 82nd Regt., which marched into camp this morning. The first division of the 6th Regt. would reach York this day, and the whole of that Regt., I have reason to hope, will be assembled on this ground by the 1st of September, by which day I expect to be able to make a successful attack on the enemy's fort or entrenched camp, notwithstanding the preparation which deserters report he is making to check our troops by means of mines and foregasses, &c. The desertions to us continue to be very considerable. As our outposts are pushed nearer to those of the enemy desertions may be expected to increase with the facility of effecting it, and I am sorry, accordingly, to report that we have lost more men within this few days than during the whole of the preceding operations. Our desertion is chiefly from De Watteville's Regt. It has just been reported to me that the enemy's schooner which was drove away by our fire has returned from the direction of Presqu' Isle.

The enemy's brigs on the lower lake have resumed their station from which they were driven by a violent gale on the 20th. Capt. Dobbs has, however, been able to detach some seamen in batteaux to York with deserters, and to bring back supplies.

I have employed Lt.-Cols. Nichol and Dickson in going through the country to endeavor by their personal influence and exertions and the messages with which they are charged from me to induce the farmers to thresh out their grain earlier than usual, to enable us to hold out until our wants can be relieved by the squadron. I hope their efforts may be successful, but Your Excellency must be aware that this is at best but a precarious dependence.

Having long seen the necessity of the appointment of a provost marshal with this division, I beg to recommend that a commission of that kind be accordingly prepared, and if Your Excellency has no candidate for the situation that it be conferred on Cornet Amos McKenney of the Niagara Light Dragoons, the officer at present acting in that situation and apparently well qualified.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 16th.

With regard to Maj.-Gen. Conran, I greatly lament to acquaint Your Excellency that two of the small bones of his leg are found to be broken. It is therefore quite impossible to reckon on his services during the present campaign. I have accordingly given him permission to proceed downwards to York, and to continue his progress to the Lower Province should he find it advisable. His loss to me and to the service is a severe one indeed.

Lt.-Col. Harvey, I am happy to inform Your Excellency, has recovered from the effects of his wound and has resumed the duties of his situation.

I rejoice to find that a company of artillery is proceeding to Kingston. It is on this frontier, however, that the deficiency in that arm is felt by me at the present moment. To enable me to carry on operations in the field I am obliged to draw from the forts more of that corps than can in strict prudence be spared.

Anselm Foster, Adjutant of the First Lincoln Militia, to Captain Jacob A. Ball.

* * * I am also directed by Major Robertson to desire you to see that the following general order is put into execution with all possible despatch. The wheat or flour to be delivered at the nearest mills where there are persons to pay the amounts specified in the order. You will keep a correct account of what is delivered and by whom, and forward me a report of your progress, for the information of the commanding officer.

Militia General Order.

The commanding officers of regiments of Lincoln Militia are particularly enjoined to instruct the officers commanding companies to enforce, if required, from five to twelve bushels of wheat from each inhabitant belonging thereto who is known to have such a quantity to spare independent of a supply for his own family. He will receive for the same the very liberal price of two and a half dollars per bushel, two dollars for an equal quantity of rye, and at the rate of fourteen dollars for flour. It is hoped that the voluntary compliance of every individual will render coercion unnecessary.

Given under my hand at headquarters, near Fort Erie, this 25th of August, 1814.

GORDON DRUMMOND,
Lt.-Genl. and President.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS,
CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 27th Aug., 1814.

SIR,—No express having arrived from below for several days, I am in ignorance how far the 6th Regt. may have advanced on its route, but have every reason to hope the 1st division would leave York on or about the 25th, and may therefore be expected here the day after to-morrow.

On the evening of the 25th the enemy, hearing us at work in the wood, (or perhaps apprized by our deserters,) moved out in considerable force and made an effort to drive back our picquets to discover what we were doing at that point. The gallantry of part of the 82nd Regt., (which happened to be on duty,) defeated his plan, and he was repulsed by our picquets after a sharp contest of ten minutes. The enemy must have suffered very considerably. Our loss was two killed and thirteen wounded, of the 82nd Regt.

The desertions from the enemy continue, (particularly from the 23rd Regt). I enclose a return of the number who have come in since the 25th ulto.

I also enclose a sketch by which Your Excellency will perceive the position of the enemy's enfilading batteries on the side of Black Rock, and also the line of our picquets and the position of the battery now constructing.

Previous to any further assault on Fort Erie, I have some thoughts of attempting to remove the annoyance we experience from the guns at Black Rock, by crossing over a force to storm those batteries. This movement must be made in considerable force, as the enemy is understood to have a large body of militia and some regulars and all the rifle corps on that side. At all events, I cannot decide upon the operation until the arrival or approach of the 6th Regt.

Our new battery is more than half completed, and the engineer officer informs me will be ready to receive its guns to-morrow night.

I am sorry to inform Your Excellency that Col. Talbot arrived in camp yesterday with an account of the enemy having detached a party of militia, accompanied by some white people painted and dressed as Indians, headed by a man named Walker, to plunder Col. Talbot's property and seize him. He effected his escape, fortunately, tho' in the house when they entered it. He states that the whole of his property has been carried off or destroyed, and all his horses carried away. There is reason to believe that this party has committed the same outrages throughout the whole of that small settlement. Mr. Burwell, a member of the House of

Assembly, and several other respectable inhabitants, have been carried off by them. They threaten to return in a few days and take away the cattle and complete the destruction of the settlement.

Return of Deserters from the American Army since the 25th July, 1814.

Total—Seventy.

J. B. Glegg, Maj., A. A. G.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

Headquarters,
Camp before Fort Erie, 30th Aug., 1814.

Sir,—The new battery, consisting of two long 18-pdrs., one 24-pdr. carronade, and one 8-inch howitzer, was armed in the course of last night and opened its fire with very good effect, at daylight this morning. Having reason to believe from the trial already made that whenever I am disposed to attack the place it will not be difficult to open the breach in the fort, I have directed the commanding officer of artillery not to throw away his ammunition, of which I am far from having a superabundance, but to confine his fire for the present merely to the annoyance of the enemy, an object in which we have every reason to believe we have hitherto been very successful. The accounts of every deserter agrees in representing their daily casualties occasioned by our fire at not less than from ten to fifteen in killed and wounded.

The first division of the 6th Regt. reached the Beaver Dams yesterday, and will be within eight miles of camp this day. The second division is only two days' march behind it. By the 2nd, therefore, the regiment will be assembled here. I have ordered up from Fort George six batteaux, in addition to the 18 which I before had on this side the Chippawa. I must, however, apprize Your Excellency that I am by no means come to a final decision as to the mode of attack most advisable to be adopted. If my force was sufficient to admit of being divided I should certainly pass a strong detachment to the right bank of the river. I do not think that less than a thousand men should be risqued on that side even for a single day, and I could not spare such a detachment without leaving myself weaker on this side than would be prudent. Moreover, I have information that the enemy, in expectation of such a movement, has removed all his stores from Buffalo and the Eleven Mile Creek into the interior.

On this side he has been unceasingly employed in strengthen-

ing his position by every means in the power of an active, laborious and ingenious enemy to devise and execute. He has had his whole force at work day and night, and has thrown up such an accumulation of mounds of earth, of batteries and breastworks, as will certainly cost us many men to dislodge him from, and which bid defiance to our shot. Nevertheless I am very much disposed to the opinion that an assault in open day is more preferable to a night attack, on many accounts. The enemy, since our last attack, are known to be constantly on their guard by night. By day I think they may be taken very much off their guard. By night it has been found that mistakes may arise that cannot easily happen by day. Moreover, the impression produced on the minds of the enemy by our late attack, and which would be strengthened and confirmed by one made in open day, would be highly favorable to us.

I do not give Your Excellency the opinions of the senior officers of the artillery and engineer departments on a point so immediately belonging to their respective departments, because, promising as is the one and zealous as are both, yet they neither of them possess that degree of experience necessary to qualify them to give a good practical opinion on such a subject. It is not to them, therefore, that I can look for such an opinion.

The information just received from Lieut.-Col. McDouall renders it necessary that the decision I am to make on this point should not be delayed, as the arrival of the enemy's squadron with troops from Lake Huron may be expected every day. I hope, therefore, in my next to communicate to Your Excellency the arrangements for the attack, of the success of which I feel every confidence.

The necessity which I find for two general officers with the right division, from the extent of the frontiers and the great increase of force, added to the state of my own health, and the information that Major-General Kempt is moving upon Kingston, have induced me to order Major-General Stovin to join the headquarters of this division. Major-General De Watteville I have not heard of beyond Kingston, yet, finding the sailing of the squadron remote, I have ordered the 90th Regiment to march up to join this division.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS,

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 2nd Sept., 1814.

SIR,—Major-General De Watteville arrived yesterday.

The 6th Regt. marched into camp this morning, and has voluntarily undertaken to labor this night on the construction of a battery, which it has been thought advisable to advance in front of

our right picquet to within about 550 yards of the fort. It is intended to open the rear face and complete the destruction of the stone buildings. This battery will, I hope, be ready to open on the morning of the 4th. I propose to arm it with three heavy long guns, an 8-inch howitzer and a heavy mortar. Its fire, combined with that of the other batteries, will probably decide the mode of attack, which I feel it to be of much importance not to defer. I enclose a Buffalo paper of the 30th, in which Your Excellency will find the cause of my deciding not to pass troops to the other shore. I allude to the call made to the militia of the opposite frontier, numbers of whom I have occasion to believe have already come forward. It is also reported that the enemy's 6th and 13th Regiments and a body of riflemen are also at hand.

A large brig, from whence I have not yet learned, has arrived and anchored off Buffalo since my last. If from Lake Huron, she will have brought them an account of the failure of their expedition against our possessions in that quarter.

On Lake Ontario, the enemy's blockading squadron not having been seen for some days, I sent the *Vincent* across to York, where she has arrived in safety, and Capt. Dobbs has directed the *Charwell* to push across the first morning the wind is fair. By their aid I got quit of many encumbrances, (prisoners and sick,) and shall receive the supplies which are waiting at York for this division.

I am happy to report that a large detachment of batteaux laden with provisions and stores, which Major-General Stovin having properly sent off from Kingston on first learning our alarming situation, have passed York in safety and are by this time, I hope, at Fort George.

Capt. Romilly is now from sickness wholly incapable of service. I have therefore to hope that Your Excellency will see the necessity of ordering up another engineer officer of that rank. Independent of the important charge which attaches to that department on this frontier, there is at the present moment another highly important scheme to be prepared, which requires more experience and judgment and involves a greater degree of responsibility than any of the young men of that department at present with this division can be supposed to possess or ought to be required to assume. I allude to the selecting of a site for a work to protect the formation of our naval establishment on Lake Erie.

J. B. Yates to Governor D. D. Tompkins.

BUFFALO, Sept. 3, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—The militia are collecting at this place very rapidly. There is every probability that more will turn out than were required by the order. Everything has been done to rouse the feelings of the community, and the exertions for that purpose have apparently been attended with very great success. Brigadier-General Davis of Genesee County has ordered out his whole brigade without any requisition or authority. Yet, as it was considered that they might be usefully employed, it was thought proper not to discourage him. If he were regularly ordered out he would take the command from General Porter. This would by no means answer in the present situation of things, as it would occasion very general dissatisfaction. The command will be a large one, probably not less than 4,000 men, perhaps 5,000. Would it not be well to send him as soon as possible the brevet rank of Major-General, so as to obviate any difficulty that may occur. By a proper disposition and use of the means that are, or in a few days will be, in the power of General Brown, the enemy's force cannonading Fort Erie will probably be obliged to retire.

There is every appearance of a disposition on the part of the militia to cross the Niagara, and if they do not the disappointment will be great indeed, but I cannot for a moment doubt it. If they do the enemy must retreat or submit. The disproportion of force will be too great for them to resist. There has been a very great difficulty in procuring a sufficient quantity of arms. I wrote to Mr. Carpenter at Whitesborough, from whom I have not yet heard. I have also written to Mr. Hopper at Onondaga. The arms at Canandaigua and Batavia have been taken for the use of the detachment.

Men have been sent out to collect such as may be in the hands of individuals and have not been returned. These, together with such United States arms as can be procured and British arms taken from the enemy, will probably be sufficient to arm the men.

Pursuant to the request in your letter, I have made inquiries about Mr. Joshua Pell, living near Chippawa, and was told he was well and had removed about two or three miles back from the river.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond to Capt. Noah Freer.

HEADQUARTERS,

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 5th Sept., 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces that on the 30th ulto. a marauding party of the enemy, consisting of about 70, came to

Oxford and made prisoners of Capts. Curtis, Hall and Carrol and Sergeant Dowland of the militia. They have likewise taken and paroled the greater part of the inhabitants from Deleware to Oxford.

They also made prisoners of Mr. Bonnell and Mr. Palmer, who were at that time purchasing cattle for the government, which to the value of 270 dollars, and 600 dollars in cash, they also made prize of.

On Mr. Burdock's house being attacked, he fired on and wounded, one of the enemy. Mr. Burdock, I am concerned to say, was wounded in return.

The traitor Westbrook accompanied the gang.

On the 1st of September the enemy was attacked by a party of militia under Lieut. Rapelje, who lay in ambush for them near Deleware. The enemy did not return his fire but fled with precipitation towards Oxford, leaving their commander mortally and several others wounded on the road. Westbrook, being in the rear, conducted them safe off through the woods. Capts. Curtis and Hall by this circumstance found means to effect their escape from the enemy, who left the greater part of their plunder, several horses, all their cattle and some arms.

Several strangers have appeared lately in the neighbourhood of Dover. One, armed, was fired at some nights since by a sentry, but the villain escaped into the bush. One Dickson and Simon Mabee, a fellow who made his escape from justice last year, entered the house of a person named John Muckle in Townsend and forcibly broke open a chest and robbed him of 200 dollars. Several persons are in pursuit of them, but hitherto without effect.

I take this opportunity of informing you that Deputy-Commissary-General Crookshank still continues unremitting in his exertions to forward supplies to Machilimackinac. Three only of the eleven canoes from Montreal have proceeded to that post, and the crews of those three, (the others having altogether refused to proceed,) he found it necessary to bribe largely for that purpose. Mr. La Mothe has returned to Montreal to procure fresh crews. But I have directed Colonel Claus to send steady Indians without delay in charge of the remaining canoes to Machilimackinac, and as the loss of the *Nancy* schooner has been a very serious one indeed, I have directed as many batteaux as are necessary to be taken from York to Nottawasaga for the purpose of transport across Lake Huron.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, 6th September, 1814.

The Brigadier-General commanding has received the report of Major Matteson of the New York Volunteers, on whom devolved the command of the party engaged in the affair of the 5th after the death of the gallant Colonel Wilcocks.

With sincere pleasure the Brigadier-General congratulates the army, that the steadiness and valour which have marked the conduct of this division during the whole campaign, were again most singularly manifested by the volunteers and regulars engaged on this occasion.

A party not exceeding 100 volunteers, (the enemy being of treble numbers,) drove the enemy to his works with comparatively small loss, and made him suffer severely. Previously to this a detachment of forty men from the 21st, under Ensign Thomas, had successfully skirmished with the enemy.

The conduct of Major Matteson on this occasion excites the highest approbation of the Brigadier-General, his coolness, courage and prudence, and the good conduct of his troops, were again conspicuously manifested. The New York Volunteers have on this occasion, as well as every other that has occurred during the whole campaign, reflected honour on the State. Captain Hale of the 11th Infantry, commanding picquet No. 2, and Ensign Thomas commanding the regulars, conducted themselves in a manner to the perfect satisfaction of the Brigadier-General. The loss on our side, with the exception of the gallant Wilcocks and Lieutenant Roosevelt, is trifling, but on the side of the enemy it was severe in the extreme; various deserters report that they had four officers and nearly 100 either killed or wounded; so great a disparity evinces in the strongest light the difference between the coolness of troops such as ours in a just and honorable career and of the enemy's thousands, who fight for objects which they care not for and in a cause which they deprecate.

Major Matteson speaks in the highest terms of the courage and good conduct of Captains Hull, Harding, Knap and Satterly, who volunteered to command a company, and Lieutenants Hathaway, Jones and Ensign Wickwire. He also expresses his highest opinion of the correct, brave and soldier-like conduct of Brigade-Major Dobbin, Quarter-Master Green and Adjutant Gilbert.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilcocks, whose services and bravery have excited the warmest interest of the army in his favor, and Lieutenant Roosevelt of the New York Volunteers, have added other names to the gallant heroes who, during this unexampled campaign,

have gloriously died on the field of honor. Colonel Wilcocks, at the moment he was mortally wounded, was charging and repulsing an infinitely superior force under the enemy's battery. The command devolving on Major Matteson, he succeeded in driving the enemy to their works and retired in good order to camp.

By command of Brigadier-General Ripley.

R. Jones,
Asst.-Adjt.-Gen.

District General Order.

Headquarters,
Camp Before Fort Erie, 7th September, 1814.

Major-General De Watteville having been directed to detach a party yesterday evening to endeavor to cut off the enemy's picket No. 4, reports that this service was executed by a company of the 6th Regiment and one of the Glengarry Light Infantry, joined by infantry pickets at Platow's and the detachment of the 19th Dragoons, under Captain Eustace, the whole under the command of Captain Patteson of the 6th Regiment, and conducted by Captain Powell, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

The enemy's picket was surprised at daylight this morning. Of its advance party, which consisted of 21 men and an officer, not one escaped; 14, including an officer, being killed, and seven wounded and taken prisoners. The main body of the pickets fled towards the forts, pursued by our troops close under the guns of the place, and must have suffered very considerably from our fire. Our loss has been only one killed, (private, 6th,) and one slightly wounded.

The conduct of this little enterprise reflects great credit not only on Captain Patteson, commanding the detachment, and the whole of the officers and soldiers of which it was composed, but on Captain Powell, Deputy-Assistant-Quatermaster-General, by whom the enterprise was planned. Sergeant Powell, 19th Light Dragoons, has been named to the Lieutenant-General as having again distinguished himsef on this occasion.

J. Harvey,
Lieut.-Col., D. A. G.

Lieut.-Gen. rummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

Camp before Fort Erie, 8th Sept., 1814.

Sir,—The new battery was completed and armed on the night of the 4th. After due consideration, however, and after consulting with the commanding artillery officer, I determined not to open its fire until the small supply of disposable ammunition which re-

mained at Fort George had been brought up, and until by the arrival of the 97th Regt. I might have it in my power to take advantage of the impression it might produce by an assault on the place, should such a measure appear advisable. The ammunition now on its way from the forts leaves them with little more than 200 rounds per gun, and with very little powder, nor is there any prospect of a supply until the arrival of the squadron, or of part of the vessels from Kingston. Under these alarming circumstances it becomes absolutely necessary that I should husband every round of my remaining stock of ammunition.

I regret very much the capture of Your Excellency's despatches in answer to mine announcing the result of the attack of the 15th ulto. By that unfortunate event I am in all probability deprived of the knowledge not only of your sentiments but also of that of Your Excellency's views and plans with regard to the general operations of the campaign, and above all of your wishes and instructions with regard to the expediency of hazarding any further assault upon the enemy's strong position at Fort Erie and Your Excellency's opinion as to how far the blockade by this division may not be more politic than attempting its capture or destruction under circumstances which in the event (but doubtful) of success, forbid us to hope to accomplish without a very severe loss.

In ignorance of Your Excellency's sentiments and wishes, and in the absence of your instructions on these points, I shall continue to act according to circumstances, and shall not fail to avail myself of any favorable opportunity which may offer of attacking the enemy. But should no such offer present itself, I feel it incumbent on me to prepare Your Excellency for the possibility of my being compelled by sickness or suffering of the troops, exposed as they will be to the effects of the wet and unhealthy season which is fast approaching, to withdraw them from their present position to one which may afford them the means of cover. Sickness has, I am sorry to say, already made its appearance in several of the corps, particularly the 82nd.

The affair of the 5th was more important than I was aware of. The Deputy-Adjutant-General transmitted to Colonel Baynes, Lt.-Col. Campbell's very clear report on that occasion. Nothing could surpass the gallantry and good conduct of all the troops; their impetuosity was with difficulty restrained.

I have directed Lt.-Col. Harvey to forward to the Adjutant-General a copy of the district general order issued by my order yesterday on occasion of an enterprise planned by Capt. Powell, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, and very well executed

by detachments of the 6th and Glengarry Regts., under direction of Capt. Patteson of the 6th.

Since the 1st of this month, the day appointed for assembling, the militia have been collecting in great numbers on the opposite frontier—I am informed to the amount of 3 to 4,000. I do not understand that any part of them have as yet been prevailed upon to cross to this shore, but it is said they have promised to come over to Fort Erie for one week. If they do and any part of them should fall into my hands, I shall assuredly send them to Quebec, and hope they may not be suffered to return to their families for a considerable period. Nothing will more effectually check their enterprising spirit than such a measure. It is said the enemy has 40 boats nearly finished at Buffalo. His squadron, consisting of two brigs and four schooners, is still at anchor off that place, but does not venture near the fort.

On Lake Ontario the enemy's squadron has disappeared for some time. The *Charwell* brig, with the *Vincent* and *Netley* schooners, are at York waiting to bring over the 97th, which I hope will arrive there this day.

Major-General Brown to Major General Izard.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, Sept. 10, 1814.

SIR,—I have been expecting with much anxiety to hear from you, and to learn the aid you can afford this army. My total effective force does not much exceed two thousand men, perhaps I may be able to fight in position twenty-five hundred. The force of the enemy which confines us to our works is believed to amount to four thousand, and the 90th or 97th—(the deserters say both these regiments)—is nigh at hand.

I will not conceal from you that I consider the fate of this army very doubtful unless speedy relief is afforded, and my opinion is that the wisest course will be to effect a juncture by landing below Niagara, marching on the American side of the strait, and crossing over from Buffalo. Will your force be such as to insure relief to this army if you land on the British side? Our united forces would, I have no doubt, be competent to drive Drummond from the field and perhaps capture him. Whatever may be your plan of operations, be so good as to make me acquainted with them so that I may know how to calculate. Your orders will be received and obeyed with pleasure.

General Porter has assembled say three thousand militia. It remains to be seen if they can be made useful.

Major-General Brown to Major-General Izard.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, Sept. 11, 1814.

SIR,—I have nothing new of importance to communicate, and by the return of the express think proper to say so for your satisfaction. We have received but few shot or shells from the enemy within the two last days. Many deserters come in, who state that the enemy's supply is exhausted, but that they expect to be resupplied within a short time. There is no doubt but they are erecting additional batteries. General Porter has succeeded in getting over about one thousand of his militia. More are expected to cross. Should you deem it proper to pass rapidly to this threatre of war, I do not doubt that it will be in your power to carry everything within this peninsula. However, if with the aid of the fleet and the forces at Sackett's Harbor you can succeed in carrying Kingston, you will accomplish a much more important object. In the execution of any plan you will find me disposed to exert myself, and I am convinced the remainder of my gallant army will do their duty under any circumstances. I shall be happy to receive your orders, and be made acquainted with your plan of operations. My command must find relief in some way before many days.

P. S.—Forts George and Niagara must be nearly empty. It is not probable that there are many of the enemy's regular troops between this and Kingston. Their militia are worse than ours, they are good for nothing.

My private opinion is that the enemy cannot bring into the field to exceed three thousand regulars between this and Burlington, unless the 97th or 90th have arrived. If you think proper to land north of Fort George, and I could know the moment of your landing so as to press upon the enemy, it would perhaps be the shortest cut to your object, the capture of Drummond and his army. He cannot escape provided you can promptly form a junction with my present command. We have artillery sufficient for every object in the field, and perhaps sufficient for the reduction of Niagara.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir Geo. Prevost.

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 11th September, 1814.

Since my last the enemy have shown a considerable number of boats and scows, which have kept up a frequent communication between Fort Erie and the opposite shore; this communication has passed chiefly by night, and from the singular circumstance of the desertion from the enemy to my camp, (my best source of information,) having almost entirely ceased, I am very much in ignorance of the nature of their movements, whether the enemy is

preparing to avail himself of the increased means of transport which he has created to withdraw from his position at Fort Erie, or whether the account which is *invariably* given by deserters of his intention to act offensively against the division under my command be correct, I have not yet been able accurately to ascertain. The recent accounts of the capture of Washington, the alarm which is felt for New York, and the probable discovery (by the intercepted despatch) of our designs against Sackett's Harbour, would appear strongly to countenance the former supposition, the positive concurring declarations of deserters, however, and the fact (reported on the same authority) of a very large number of militia and volunteers, to the number it is said of 2,500, having actually crossed to the fort yesterday evening, these circumstances tend to favor the latter idea. Every preparation has been made to give the enemy a warm reception.

The batteries have almost been silent for several days from the reduced state of the ammunition. A small supply, the last I can command, has arrived from Fort George to-day. This I must reserve until the arrival of the 97th Regiment, in order that I may be enabled to avail myself of any favorable opening it may effect. No direct fire from the small number of guns which I have could produce any material effect on such mounds of earth defended by such a number of guns. Mortar fire is alone of use, and of that I have not more than 80 rounds for the two mortars.

I am much disappointed at not having yet heard of the arrival of the 97th Regiment at York. I had expected to have had them here before this time; the wind has been adverse, and the weather tempestuous and rainy. Should the rainy weather continue only for a few days, I dread the effect it must have on the men in their present situation; hitherto with the exception of one or two corps they have stood it tolerably well.

I have to acknowledge Your Excellency's letter of the 2nd inst.

I look with impatience for duplicates of your answer to my letter of the 17th ulto.

Major-General Brown, who has resumed command of the troops at Fort Erie, has this day sent in several private letters taken in the bag which was intercepted near the Presqu' Isle on the 29th.

I enclose a copy of his note.

Deeming it absolutely necessary to send down several of the corps on this frontier which have suffered much by sickness and severe service, as soon as the campaign here is over, I have directed Major-General Kempt to embark a regiment of the centre division, (the selection of which I have left to him,) and send it up on board the squadron, by the return of which I propose sending down one

or more of the corps alluded to, viz: the Kings, 100th, 41st, and Royals.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Camp Before Fort Erie, 14th September, 1814.

Sir,—I am sorry to acquaint Your Excellency that ever since the despatch of my last letter it has continued to rain almost incessantly. As the whole of the troops are without tents, and the huts in which they are placed are wholly incapable of affording shelter against such severe weather, their situation is most distressing. I am happy to say, however, that no considerable degree of sickness has as yet been the consequence, and what is, if possible, still more satisfactory, our desertion, except from the Regiment De Watteville, has by no means increased, notwithstanding the hardships to which they now are exposed.

The late heavy falls of rain have rendered the roads almost impassable, and at this late season there is little chance of them again becoming good, and when Your Excellency considers that I have no depot of provisions or of any other description of supplies nearer than Fort George, that the forage of the surrounding country to the distance of upwards of ten miles has been exhausted, that even if I could feed them I have not a sufficient number of cattle to move one-third of the heavy ordnance which I have in the batteries, should any unforeseen circumstances render a sudden movement necessary the difficulties of my situation will be sufficiently apparent to Your Excellency. It is certain the enemy has found the means of inducing his militia to cross the river, and I have reason to believe that a body of not less than 2,000 has been brought to Fort Erie. I also understand that a considerable number still remain on the opposite shore, to which weak regiments of regulars have within this day or two been joined from the troops at Fort Erie. It is said to be the intention, (as mentioned in my last,) to land this force in my rear.

The sudden and most unlooked for return to the head of Lake Ontario of the two brigs by which the Niagara has been so long blockaded and my communication with York cut off, has had the effect of preventing the junction of the 97th Regiment, which arrived at York on the 10th, and would probably have been at Niagara on the following day but for this unlucky circumstance. They have been reduced to the necessity of continuing their route by land, and accordingly marched from York on the 12th. In the present state of the roads and weather I cannot expect them here before the 17th or 18th. In the meantime I have strong grounds for

thinking that the enemy will risque an attack, an event which, from the necessity of defending my batteries in the first instance with the picquets alone, I shall have to meet under every possible disadvantage, yet I am very much disposed to hope may be the most fortunate circumstance that can happen, as it will bring us into contact with the enemy at a far cheaper rate than if we were to be the assailants, and may at the same time, I trust, bring to a happy crisis a campaign which has been marked by a series of unlucky circumstances, as well as of late severe hardships and privations on the part of the troops, which I am most happy in repeating have borne them with the utmost cheerfulness, and have evinced a degree of steadiness and spirit highly honorable to them.

I have directed the Deputy-Adjutant-General to transmit to the Adjutant-General a return of casualties which have taken place since my last; those of this day were occasioned by an attack which about 400 of the enemy's militia and riflemen made on our batteries immediately after daylight. They were repulsed by the picquets, the officer who led them was killed and one man made prisoner.

I enclose a report of an alarming nature which has just been received from Lt.-Col. Warburton, commanding at the forts. Previous to this a considerable part of one of the other bastions had fallen down, (from the effect of the weather,) the restoration of which has been effected by great exertions. Situated as I at present am, and considering the large disposable force the enemy has on or can pass to the other bank of the river, and the weakness of the present garrison of Fort Niagara, I cannot but regard the circumstance reported by Lieut.-Col. Warburton as a very awkward one.

P. S.—Another report, (copy enclosed,) has just been received from Lieut.-Col. Warburton.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Camp Before Fort Erie, 17th September, 1814.

Sir,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that the enemy made a sortie with his whole force at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and having under cover of a heavy fall of rain and favored by the thick woods which approach close to our position, gained, unperceived, the right of our batteries, he rushed upon them in such overwhelming force that the picquets and covering parties were forced back, and the momentary possession of the right and centre batteries obtained. The gallantry of the supporting brigade quickly recovered them, but not before the guns in the right battery had been disabled. The loss on our side has been considerable; that of the enemy great. Upwards of 200 prisoners are in our

hands, including a number of officers, among them Lieut.-Colonel Wood, their chief engineer, mortally wounded.

A more detailed account will be transmitted to-morrow, together with a return of casualties.

Major-General Stovin arrived a short time before the attack. The 97th Regiment is within eight miles.

P. S.—The enemy's force, including militia, could not have been less than 5,000. Our troops behaved admirably.

G. D.

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 18th September, 1814.

Lieutenant-General Drummond, having received the reports of the general officers in the immediate direction of the troops engaged yesterday, begs to offer his best acknowledgements for their very gallant conduct in repulsing the attack made by the enemy upon our batteries with his whole force, represented to consist of not less than five thousand men including militia. The brilliant style in which the battery No. 2 was recovered and the enemy driven beyond our entrenchments, by seven companies of the 82d Regiment under Major Proctor, and three companies of the 6th Regiment detached under Major Taylor, excited Lieutenant-General Drummond's admiration, and entitled those troops to his particular thanks. On the right the enemy's advance was checked by the 1st battalion of the Royal Scots, supported by the 89th, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon of the Royals, and in the centre he was driven back by the Glengarry Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby and directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, inspecting field officer. To these troops the Lieutenant-General's best thanks are due, as also to the remainder of the reserve under Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, consisting of the remaining companies of the 6th Regiment, the flank companies of the 41st and the Incorporated Militia, which supported the troops engaged.

The Lieutenant-General deeply laments the unfortunate circumstances of weather, which enabled the enemy to approach unperceived close to the right of the position and to capture a considerable number of the Regiment De Watteville, stationed at that point. The severe loss in killed and wounded which the 8th or King's and De Watteville's Regiment have suffered, affords incontestable proof that No. 2 battery was not gained without a vigorous resistance; it is equally obvious that the blockhouse on the right was well defended by the party of the King's Regiment stationed in it.

Lieutenant-General Drummond feels greatly indebted to Major-General De Watteville for his judicious arrangements, and he also desires to offer his thanks to the respective commanding officers of brigades and corps and the officers and men of the Royal Artillery and Engineers, for their exertions. To Major-General Stovin, who joined the army a short time before the attack, the Lieutenant-General is indebted for his assistance, and also to the officers of his personal staff.

Lieutenant-General Drummond greatly regrets the wounds which have deprived the army for the present of the services of Colonel Fischer, Lieutenant-Colonels Pearson and Gordon.

Lieutenants-Colonels Fischer, Pearson, and Gordon have permission to proceed to the rear for the recovery of their wounds.

J. HARVEY,
Lieut.-Col., D. A. G.

Major-Gen. De Watteville to Sir Gordon Drummond.

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, Sept. 19th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that the enemy attacked on the 17th in the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, our position before Fort Erie, the Second Brigade, under Col. Fischer, composed of the 8th and De Watteville's Regiments, being on duty. Under cover of a heavy fire of his artillery from Fort Erie and much favored by the nature of the ground, and also by the state of the weather, the rain falling in torrents at the moment of his approach, the enemy succeeded in turning the right of our line picquets without being perceived, and with a very considerable force attacked both the picquets and their support in their flank and rear; at the same time another of the enemy's columns attacked in front the picquets between No. 2 and No. 3 batteries, and having succeeded in penetrating by No. 4 picquet, part of his force turned to his left and thereby surrounded our right and got almost immediate possession of No. 3 battery. The enemy then directed his attacks with a very superior force towards No. 2 battery, but the obstinate resistance made by the picquets, under every possible disadvantage, delayed considerably his getting possession of No. 2 battery, in which, however, he at last succeeded. As soon as the alarm was given, the 1st Brigade, being next for support, composed of the Royal Scots, the 82nd and 6th Regiments, under Lieut.-Col. Gordon, received orders to march forward, and also the light demi-brigade under Lieut.-Col. Pearson, the 6th Regiment remaining in reserve under Lieut.-Col. Campbell. From the concession road, the Royal Scots and the 89th moved by the new road and met the enemy near the blockhouse on the right

of No. 3 battery, whom they engaged, and by their steady and intrepid conduct checked his further progress. The 82nd Regt. and three companies of the 6th were detached to the left in order to support Nos. 1 and 2 batteries; the enemy having at that time possession of No. 2 battery and still pushing forward, seven companies of the 82nd, under Major Proctor, and three companies of the 6th, under Major Taylor, received directions to oppose the enemy's forces, and immediately charged them with the most intrepid bravery, driving them both across our entrenchments and also from No. 2 battery, thereby preventing them from destroying it or damaging its guns in a considerable degree; Lieut.-Col. Pearson with the Glengarry Light Infantry under Lieut.-Col. Battersby, pushed forward by the centre road and carried with great gallantry the new entrenchment, then in full possession of the enemy. The enemy being thus repulsed at every point was forced to retire with precipitation to their works, leaving prisoners and a number of their wounded in our hands. By five o'clock the entrenchments were again occupied, and the line of picquets established as it had been previous to the enemy's attack. I have the honor to enclose a return of casualties, and the report of the officer commanding the Royal Artillery respecting the damage done to the ordnance and the batteries during the time they were in the enemy's possession.

Lt.-Gen. Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Camp Before Fort Erie, 19th Sept., 1814.

Sir,—My letter to Your Excellency of the 17th, gave a short account of the result of an attack made by the enemy on my batteries and position on that day. I have now the honor to transmit a copy of Major-General De Watteville's report, together with a return of killed, wounded and missing on that occasion. To the information which Your Excellency will derive from those documents I have to add that as soon as the firing was heard I proceeded toward the advance and found the troops had moved from camp, and the Royals and 89th had been pushed by Major-Gen. De Watteville into the woods on the right towards No. 3 battery, and that the 82nd was moving to the support of the batteries on the left. At this moment it was reported to me that the enemy had gained possession of batteries Nos. 2 and 3 and that our troops were falling back, a report which the approach of the fire confirmed. Your Excellency will have in recollection that the whole line of operations lay in a thick wood. I immediately directed Lieut.-Col. Campbell to detach one wing of the 6th Regt. to support the 82d in an attack, which I ordered to be made for the recovery of

battery No. 2. I directed Major-Gen. De Watteville to superintend the movement. Major-Gen. Stovin took the direction of the troops and guns left in reserve. I threw forward the Glengarry Light Infantry into the woods in front of the centre to check the advance of the enemy and support the troops retiring from that point. Both these movement were executed to my entire satisfaction, and being combined with a judicious attack made by Lt.-Col. Gordon with part of the 1st Brigade, consisting of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots, supported by the 89th, the enemy was everywhere driven back and our batteries and entrenchments regained, not, however, before he had disabled the guns in No. 3 battery and exploded its magazine. The enemy did not again attempt to make a stand, but retreated in great disorder to the fort and was followed by our troops to the glacis of the place. To Major-Gen. De Watteville's report I must refer Your Excellency for the cause of the enemy's success in the first instance, viz: the overwhelming number of the enemy, to which we had only the King's and De Watteville's to oppose. The spirit which the troops displayed in all the subsequent operations deserves the highest commendation, and entitles them to my warmest approbation. I have only to regret that the scene of action, (a thick wood,) was so unfavorable to the display of the valuable qualities which are inherent in British troops. The charge made by the 82d Regt. under Major Proctor, and detachment of the 6th under Major Taylor, led to the recovery of the battery No. 2, and very much decided the precipitate retrograde movement made by the enemy from the different points of our position, of which he had gained a short possession. Major-Gen. De Watteville reports most favorably of the steadiness evinced by the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots, under Lieut.-Col. Gordon, (commanding 1st Brigade,) and the remains of the 2d Battalion, 89th, under Capt. Basden. I myself witnessed the good order and spirit with which the Glengarry Light Infantry, under Lieut.-Col. Battersby, pushed into the wood, and by their superior fire drove back the enemy's light troops. Lieut.-Col. Pearson, inspecting field officer, accompanied this part of his demi-brigade, and, I am sorry to say, received a severe, though I hope not a dangerous, wound. To Major-Gen. De Watteville, who commanded in camp and by whom the first directions were given and arrangements made, I am under great obligations for the judgment displayed by him, and for his zeal and exertions during the action. My acknowledgments are also due to Major-Gen. Stovin, who arrived at my headquarters a few hours before the attack, for the assistance I received from him. I cannot sufficiently appreciate the valuable assistance which I have received from Col. Myers, Dep.-Quartermaster-Gen., and Lieut.-Col.

Harvey, Dep.-Adj.-Gen., during the present service, and which have been of the more important as from my own state of health of late, (in consequence of my wound,) I have not been able to use those active exertions which I otherwise might. I avail myself of this opportunity of again expressing my sincere concern at the loss which this division of the army sustained by the accident which deprived it of the services of Major-Gen. Conran, from whose energy and ability much was justly to be expected. To Major Glegg, Assist.-Adj.-Gen., and to Capts. Chambers and Powell, Dep.-Assist.-Quartermaster-Gen., to Capt. Foster, Military Secretary, Lieut.-Col. Hagerman, Provincial Aide-de-Camp, and to Lieut. Nesfield, 89th Regt., acting aide-de-camp, who have rendered me every assistance in their respective situations, my best acknowledgments are due. They are likewise due to Major D'Alton, Brigade Major with the right division, for his uniform correctness, zeal and attention to his duty. To Lieut.-Col. Campbell of the 6th Regt. I am also much indebted, as well in his capacity of commanding officer of that excellent corps as in that of senior officer of the reserve of this division. Col. Fischer of De Watteville's Regt. and Lieut.-Col. Ogilvie of the King's are entitled to my best thanks. The zeal and exertions of Major Phillot, commanding the Royal Artillery, Captains Walker and Sabine, and the officers and men of that corps, have been unremitting, and merit every commendation. I have reason to be pleased with the activity and zeal which Major Lisle and the officers and men of the squadron of the 19th Dragoons have uniformly displayed. The enemy, it is now ascertained, made the sortie with his whole force, which, including the militia volunteers by which he has lately been joined, could not consist of less than 5,000. About 200 prisoners fell into our hands, and I cannot estimate the enemy's loss in killed and wounded at less than that number. The dreadful state of the roads and of the weather, it having poured with rain almost incessantly for the last ten days, rendered every movement of ordnance or heavy stores exceedingly difficult. By great exertions the commanding artillery officer has succeeded in moving the battery guns and mortars with their stores, &c., towards Chippawa, to which place I mean to withdraw them for the present.

Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS,
FORT ERIE, September 18, 1814.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction to announce to you a brilliant achievement yesterday, effected by the forces under my command. A sortie was made upon the enemy's principal batteries—these were

carried; we blew up his principal work, destroyed his battering pieces and captured 400 prisoners. The enemy resisted our assault with firmness, but suffered greatly; his total loss cannot be less than 800 men.

In such a business we could not but expect to lose many valuable lives; they were offered up a voluntary sacrifice to the safety and honor of this army and nation.

I will forward to you the particulars of this splendid affair, with a return of the killed and wounded, in the course of a few days.

Gen. Brown to Gov. Tompkins.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, Sept. 20, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your Excellency is no doubt aware how much the army under my command has suffered from the fire of the enemy's batteries, of which the first and second were not more than 500 yards distant. Soon after my arrival, I ascertained they were day and night employed in erecting a third, to the right of the others, which would rake obliquely our whole encampment. About the 12th this new work was nearly completed, and in it were mounted some long 24-pounders. Being very impatient under the fire of the old, and knowing that our difficulties would increase from the opening of the new, battery, I determined to hazard a sortie with a view of carrying them and destroying the cannon. On the 17th inst. an order was given to this effect and executed in the most gallant style.

The batteries were carried, the principal work blown up, and the cannon effectually destroyed. It was a desperate conflict. The loss of the enemy cannot be less than 800 men. Our own is severe, in officers particularly. The militia of New York have redeemed their character—they behaved gallantly. Gen. Davis was killed, and General Porter slightly wounded in the hand.

Of the militia that were called out by the last requisition, fifteen hundred men have crossed. This reinforcement has been of immense importance to us; it doubled our effective strength, and their good conduct cannot but have the happiest effect upon the nation. The brave men deserve well of their country; and I flatter myself that the legislature about to convene will notice them as becomes the representatives of a generous people.

Brigadier-General Porter to Major-General Brown.

FORT ERIE, September 23rd, 1814.

SIR,—In executing the duty you have imposed upon me of reporting the conduct of the officers and men composing the left column, which you were pleased to place under my command in the *sortie* of the 17th instant, the pleasure I derive in representing to you the admirable conduct of the whole is deeply chastened by sorrow for the loss of so many brave and distinguished men.

Being obliged from the nature of the ground to act on foot, it was impossible that my own personal observation should reach to every officer. Some part of this report must therefore rest upon the information of others.

It is the business of this communication to speak of the conduct of individuals, yet you will permit me to premise, although well known to yourself already, that the object of the left column was to penetrate by a circuitous route between the enemy's batteries, where one-third of his force was always kept on duty, and his main camp, and that it was sub-divided into three divisions—the advance of 200 riflemen and a few Indians commanded by Colonel Gibson, and two columns moving parallel to and 30 yards distant from each other. The right column was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, headed by 400 infantry under Major Brooke of the 23rd, and followed by 500 volunteers and militia, being parts of Lieutenant-Colonels Dobbins', McBurney's and Fleming's regiments, and was intended to attack the batteries.

The left column of 500 militia was commanded by Brigadier-General Davis, and comprised the commands of Lieutenant-Colonels Hopkins, Churchill and Crosby, and was intended to hold in check any reinforcements from the enemy's camp; or both columns, (circumstances requiring it, which frequently happened,) to co-operate in the same object.

After carrying by storm in the handsomest syle a strong block-house in the rear of the third battery, making its garrison prisoners, destroying the three 24-pounders and their carriages in the third battery, and blowing up the enemy's magazine, and after co-operating with General Miller in taking the second battery, the gallant leaders of the three divisions all fell nearly at the same time: Colonel Gibson at the second battery, and General Davis and Lieutenant-Colonel Wood in an assault upon the first.

Brigadier-General Davis, although a militia officer of little experience, conducted himself on this occasion with all the coolness and bravery of a veteran, and fell while advancing upon the enemy's entrenchments. His loss as a citizen as well as a soldier

will be severely felt in the patriotic county of Genesee. Colonel Gibson fully sustained the high military reputation which he had before so justly acquired. You know how exalted an opinion I have always entertained of Lt.-Col. Wood of the engineers. His conduct on this day was what it has uniformly been on every similar occasion, an exhibition of military skill, acute judgment and heroic valor. Of the other regular officers, Lt.-Col. McDonald and Major Brook, senior in command, will report to you in relation to their respective divisions. Permit me to say, however, of these two officers, that much as was left to them by the fall of their distinguished leaders, they were able to sustain their parts in the most admirable manner, and they richly deserve the notice of the government.

Of the militia, I regret that the limits of a report will not permit me even to name all those who on this occasion established claims to the gratitude of their fellow citizens, much less to particularize individual merit. Lieut.-Cols. Hopkins, McBurney, Churchill and Crosby, and Majors Lee, Marcle, Wilson, Lawrence, Burr, Dunham, Kellogg and Ganson, are entitled to the highest praise for their gallant conduct, their steady and persevering exertions. Lt.-Col. Dobbins being prevented by indisposition from taking the field, Major Hall, Assistant-Inspector-General, volunteered his services to join Major Lee in command of the volunteer regiment, and Major Lee and every other officer speaks of the gallant and good conduct of this young officer.

Captain Fleming, who commanded the Indians, was, as he always is, in the front of the battle. There is not a more intrepid soldier in the army. I should be ungrateful were I to omit the names of Captains Knapp and Hull of the volunteers and Captain Parker and Lieut. Chatfield of the militia, by whose intrepidity I was during the action extricated from the most unpleasant situation. Capts. Richardson, Bull and Kennedy, and Lieuts. Parker and Brown, and Adjutants Dobbin, Bates and Robinson, particularly distinguished themselves. The patriotic conduct of Capt. Elliott, with twenty young gentlemen who volunteered from Batavia, and of Major Hubbard, with fourteen men exempted by age from military duty, should not be omitted. They were conspicuous during the action.

You will excuse me if I seem partial to my own family, consisting of my Brigade-Major Frazer, my volunteer aide-de-camp, Riddle, (both first lieutenants in the 15th Infantry,) Captain Biggar of the Canadian volunteers, Messrs. Williams and Delapierre, volunteer aids for the day, all of whom, except Mr. Williams, were wounded.

Lieuts. Frazer and Riddle were engaged for most of the preceding day with fatigue parties, cutting roads for the advance of the column through the swamp, and falling timber to the rear and within 150 yards of the enemy's right, which service they executed with so much address as to avoid discovery, and on the succeeding day they conducted the two columns to the attack. Frazer was severely wounded by a musket ball while spiking a gun on the second battery; Riddle, after the first battery was carried, descended into the enemy's magazine, and after securing (with the assistance of Quartermaster Greene of the volunteers, whose good conduct deserves much praise,) a quantity of fixed ammunition, blew up the magazine and suffered severely by the explosion. I must solicit through you, sir, the attention of the general government to these meritorious young men. Captain Bigger is an excellent officer and rendered me much assistance, but was dangerously wounded. The other young gentlemen are citizens and deserve much credit for their activity and for having voluntarily encountered danger. My aide-de-camp, Major Dox, was confined at Buffalo by sickness.

On the whole, sir, I can say of the regular troops attached to the left column, of the veteran volunteers of Lieut.-Col. Dobbins' regiment, that every man did his duty, and their conduct on this occasion reflects a new lustre on their former brilliant achievements. To the militia the compliment is justly due, and I could pay them no greater one than to say, that they were not surpassed by the heroes of Chippawa and Niagara in steadiness and bravery.

The studied intricacy of the enemy's defences, consisting not only of the breastwork connecting their batteries but of successive lines of entrenchments for a hundred yards in the rear, covering the batteries and enfilading each other, and the whole obstructed by *abattis*, brush, and felled timber, was calculated to produce confusion among the assailants and led to several conflicts at the point of the bayonet. But by our double columns temporary irregularities in the one was always corrected by the other. Our success would probably have been more complete but for the rain, which unfortunately set in soon after we commenced our march, which rendered the fire of many of our muskets useless, and by obscuring the sun led to several unlucky mistakes. As an instance of this, a body of 50 prisoners, who had surrendered, were ordered to the fort in charge of a subaltern and 14 volunteers: the officer mistaking the direction conducted them towards the British camp in the route by which we had advanced and they were retaken, with the whole of the guard excepting the officer and one man, who fought their way back. Several of our stragglers were made prisoners by the same mistake. But, sir, notwithstanding these accidents, we have reason

to rejoice at our signal success in inflicting a vastly disproportionate injury on the enemy, and in wholly defeating all his plans of operation against this army.

Major-General Brown to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, Sept. 29th, 1814.

SIR,—In my letter of the 18th inst. I briefly informed you of the fortunate issue of the sortie which took place the day preceding. But it is due to the gallant officers and men to whose bravery we are indebted for our success on this occasion, that I should give you a more circumstantial and detailed account of this affair.

The enemy's camp I had ascertained to be situated in a field surrounded by woods, nearly two miles distant from their batteries and entrenchments, the object of which was to keep the part of the force which was not upon duty out of the range of our fire from Fort Erie and Black Rock. Their infantry was formed into three brigades, estimated at 12 or 15 hundred men each. One of these brigades with a detail from their artillery was stationed at their works, (these being about 500 yards distant from old Fort Erie and the right of our line.) We had already suffered much from the fire of two of their batteries and were aware that a third was about to open upon us. Under these circumstances, I resolved to storm the batteries, destroy the cannon, and roughly handle the brigade upon duty before those in reserve could be brought into action.

On the morning of the 17th, the infantry and riflemen, regulars and militia, were ordered to be paraded and put in readiness to march precisely at 12 o'clock. Gen. Porter with the volunteers, Colonel Gibson with the riflemen, and Major Brooks with the 23d and 1st Infantry and a few dragoons acting as infantry, were ordered to move from the extreme left of our position upon the enemy's right by a passage opened through the woods for the occasion. Gen. Miller was directed to station his command in the ravine which lies between Fort Erie and the enemy's batteries, by passing them by detachments through the skirts of the wood, and the 21st Infantry under Gen. Ripley was posted as a corps of reserve between the new bastions of Fort Erie—all under cover and out of the view of the enemy.

About 20 minutes before 3 p. m. I found the left columns under the command of Gen. Porter, which were destined to turn the enemy's right, within a few rods of the British entrenchments. They were ordered to advance and commence the action. Passing down the ravine, I judged from the report that the action had

commenced on our left. I now hastened to Gen. Miller and directed him to seize the moment and pierce the enemy's entrenchments between batteries Nos. 2 and 3. My orders were promptly and ably executed. Within 30 minutes after the first gun was fired, batteries Nos. 3 and 2, the enemy's line of entrenchments, and his two blockhouses were in our possession. Soon after, battery No. 1 was abandoned by the British. The guns in each were spiked by us or otherwise destroyed, and the magazine of No. 3 was blown up.

A few minutes before the explosion, I had ordered up the reserve under Gen. Ripley. As he passed me at the head of his column, I desired him, as he would be the senior in advance, to ascertain as near as possible the situation of the troops in general, and to have a care that not more was hazarded than the occasion required; that the object of the sortie effected, the troops would retire in good order, &c. Gen. Ripley passed rapidly on. Soon after I became alarmed for General Miller and sent an order for the 21st to hasten to his support towards battery No. 1. Col. Upham received the order and advanced to the aid of Gen. Miller. Gen. Ripley had inclined to the left, where Maj. Brooks' command was engaged, with a view of making some necessary inquiries of that officer, and in the act of doing so was unfortunately wounded. By this time the object of the sortie was accomplished beyond my most sanguine expectation. Gen. Miller had consequently ordered the troops on the right to fall back. Observing this movement, I sent my staff along the line to call in the other corps. Within a few minutes they retired to the ravine and from thence to camp.

Thus one thousand regulars and an equal portion of militia, in one hour of close action blasted the hopes of the enemy, destroyed the fruits of fifty days' labor, and diminished his effective force 1000 men at least. I am at a loss to express my satisfaction at the gallant conduct of the officers and men of this division, whose valor has shone superior to every trial. Gen. Porter, in his official report herein enclosed, has very properly noticed those patriotic citizens who have done so much honor to themselves by freely and voluntarily tendering their services at a dangerous and critical period.

As the scene of the action was in the wood in advance of the position I had chosen for directing the movements, the several reports of the commandants of corps must guide me in noticing individuals.

General Miller mentions Lieut.-Col. Aspinwall, Lieut.-Col. Beedle, Major Trimble, Capt. Hull, Capt. Ingersol, Lieut. Crawford, Lieut. Lee, and particularly Ensign O'Fling, as entitled to distinction.

Lieut.-Col. McDonald, upon whom the command of the rifle corps devolved upon the fall of the brave and generous Gibson,

names Adjutants Shortridge of the 1st and Ballard of the 4th Regiment as deserving the highest applause for their promptness and gallantry in communicating orders. Of the other officers of the corps, he reports generally that the bravery and good conduct of all was so conspicuous as to render it impossible to discriminate.

Major Brooks, to whom much credit is due for the distinguished manner in which he executed the orders he received, speaks in high terms of Lieuts. Goodell, Ingersol, Livingston, and Ensigns Brant and O'Fling of the 23d, particularly of the latter. Also of Capt. Simms, Lieutenants Bissel, Shore and Brinot of the 1st Infantry, and Lieut. Watts of the dragoons.

Lieut.-Col. Upham, who took command of the reserve after Gen. Ripley was disabled, bestows great praise upon Major Chambers of the 4th Regiment of riflemen attached to the 21st Infantry, as also upon Capt. Bradford and Lieut. Holding of that regiment.

My staff, Col. Snelling, Col. Gardner, Major Jones, and my aide-de-camp, Major Austin, and Lieut. Armstrong, were, as usual, zealous, intelligent, and active ;—they performed every duty required of them to my entire satisfaction.

Major Hall, Assistant Inspector-Gen., led a battalion of militia and conducted it with skill and gallantry. Lieut. Kirby, Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Ripley, was extremely active and useful during the time he was in the action.

Lieutenants Frazer and Riddle were in Gen. Porter's staff; their bravery was conspicuous, and no officers of their grade were more useful.

The corps of artillery commanded by Major Hindman, which has been so eminently distinguished throughout this campaign, had no opportunity of taking a part in the sortie. The 25th Infantry, under Col. Jessup, was stationed in Fort Erie, to hold the key of our position.

Col. Brady, on whose firmness and good conduct every reliance could be placed, was on command at Buffalo with the remains of the 22d Infantry. Lieut.-Col. McRea and Lieut.-Col. Wood of the corps of engineers have rendered to this army services the most important. I must seize the opportunity of again mentioning them particularly. On every trying occasion I have reaped much benefit from their sound and excellent advice. No two officers of their grade could have contributed more to the safety and honor of this army. Wood, brave, generous, and enterprising, died as he had lived, without a feeling but for the honor of his country and the glory of her arms; his name and example will live to guide the soldiers in the path of duty so long as true heroism is held in estimation. McRea lives to enjoy the approbation of every virtuous and

generous mind, and to receive the reward due to his services and high military talents.

It is proper here to notice that although but one-third of the enemy's force was on duty when his works were carried, the whole were brought into action while we were employed in destroying his cannon. We secured prisoners from seven of his regiments and know that the 6th and 82d suffered severely in killed and wounded, yet these regiments were not upon duty.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond broke up his camp during the night of the 21st and retired to his entrenchments behind the Chippawa. A party of our men came up with the rear of his army at Frenchman's Creek ; the enemy destroyed part of their stores by setting fire to the buildings from which they were employed in conveying them. We found in and about their camp a considerable quantity of cannon ball and upwards of one hundred stand of arms.

I send you enclosed herein a return of our loss. The return of prisoners enclosed does not include the stragglers that came in after the action,

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Report of the Killed, Wounded and Missing in the above Action.

Killed, 79 ; wounded, 216 ; missing, 216 ; total, 511.

C. K. GARDNER,
Adj.-Gen.

Return of prisoners taken in the above action :—Two majors, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 1 assistant-surgeon, 4 staff sergeants, 19 sergeants, 17 corporals, 1 drummer, 332 rank and file. Total, 385.

J. SNELLING,
Insp.-Gen.

Names and Rank of Officers Killed, Wounded and Missing at Fort Erie, 17th September, 1814.

Killed—Lt.-Col. Wood, Engineers ; Capt. L. Bradford, 21st Inf.; Capt. H. Hale, 11th Inf. ; Capt. L. G. A. Armistead, 1st Riflemen.

Wounded—Brig.-Gen. Ripley ; Brigade-Major Lieut. Crawford, 11th Inf. ; 9th Inf., Lt.-Col. Aspinwall, Capt. Ingersol, Lieut. E. Childs, (bayonet wound) ; 11th Inf., Lieuts. W. F. Hale, I. Clarke, Stevenson, and Davis ; 19th Inf., Maj. Trimble, Ensign Neely ; 21st Inf., Ensign Cummings : 23d Inf., Lieut. Brown, Ensign O'Fling, (mortally) ; 1st Rifles, Capt. Ramsey, Lieut. Cobb, (dead) ; 4th Rifles, Col. Gibson, (dead), Lieut. Grant.

Missing—Lieut. Ballard, 4th Rifles, militia.

Killed—Brig.-Gen. Davis, Capt. Buel, (Crosby's Regt.), Lieut. Brown, (McBurney's), Lieut. W. Belknap, (Hopkins'), Ensign Blakely, (McBurney's).

Wounded—Maj.-Gen. Porter, (sword wound), Lieut. Frazer, 15th Inf., Riddle, 15th Inf., Capt. Bigger, N. Y. Vol., (Dobbin's Regt.), Capt. Knapp, Lieut. Bailey, (McBurney's), Capt. Hale, (wounded and prisoner, Hopkin's Regt.), Lieut. Gillet.

Missing—Lieut.-Col. Churchill, Major E. Wilson, Q. M., O. Wilcox, Capts. Crouch and Case, Lieut. Case, Ensigns Chambers, Clark, and Church.

General Brown to the Secretary of War.

H. Q., Camp Fort Erie, October 1st, 1814.

Sir,—Looking over my official account of the action of the 17th ultimo, I find that the names of the regiments which composed General Miller's command were not given. As I believe it even more important to distinguish corps than individuals, I am anxious to correct this mistake. General Miller on that day commanded the remains of the 9th and 11th Infantry and a detachment of the 19th. Of three field officers attached to them, two were severely wounded; Lt.-Col. Aspinwall of the 9th, gallantly leading his men to the attack, and Major Trimble of the 19th, who was shot within their works, conducting with great skill and bravery. A detachment of the 17th Regiment was attached to the 21st.

THE DOCUMENTARY

HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

—ON THE—

NIAGARA FRONTIER IN 1814.

PART II.

EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY CAPT. E. CRUIKSHANK.

WELLAND:

PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE OFFICE.

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Plan of the Entrenched Camp at Fort Erie 302

PART II.

The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1814.

Return of Casualties of the Right Division of the Army in Action with the Enemy.

Camp Before Fort Erie, September 17, 1814.

Royal Artillery—9 rank and file missing.

Additional Gunners—De Watteville's Regiment—1 rank and file wounded; 10 rank and file missing.

1st or Royal Scots—8 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 30 rank and file, wounded; 2 sergeants, 15 rank and file, missing.

6th Foot—1 captain, 1 sergeant, 13 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 25 rank and file, wounded; 1 sergeant, 10 rank and file, missing.

8th Foot—1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 12 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 12 rank and file, wounded; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 8 sergeants, 63 rank and file, missing.

82d Foot—2 sergeants, 10 rank and file, killed; 2 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 5 sergeants, 33 rank and file, wounded; 8 rank and file missing.

89th Foot—1 rank and file killed; 1 sergeant, 2 rank and file, wounded; 1 sergeant, 19 rank and file, missing.

De Watteville's Regiment—1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, 58 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, 1 drummer 26 rank and file, wounded; 2 majors, 3 captains, 1 adjutant, 1 assistant-surgeon, 9 sergeants, 2 drummers, 146 rank and file, missing.

Glengarry Light Infantry—3 rank and file killed; 1 sergeant, 18 rank and file, wounded.

General total—1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 7 sergeants, 105 rank and file, killed; 3 lieutenant-colonels, 3 captains, 10 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 13 sergeants, 1 drummer, 117 rank and file, wounded; 2 majors, 4 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 assistant-surgeon, 21 sergeants, 2 drummers, 280 rank and file, missing.

Names of Officers Killed.

6th Foot—Capt. R. D. Patteson.

8th Foot—Lieutenant Barstow.

De Watteville's Regiment—Lieutenant Pellichody.

Wounded.

Royal Scots—Lieut.-Colonel J. Gordon, severely; Lieut. J. Rutledge, (since dead).

6th Foot—Lieutenant Andrews, severely.

8th Foot—Lieutenant Lowry, severely.

82d Foot—Capt. J. M. Wright, (since dead); Capt. E. Marshall, slightly: Lieuts. H. Pigott, W. Mason, and Robert Lathom, severely; Lieut. Geo. Harman, slightly: Ensign C. Langford, (since dead).

De Watteville's—Lieut.-Col. Fischer, severely; Captain Mittelholzer, severely; Lieutenant Gingens, severely: Lieut. Steiger, slightly: Lieutenant LaPiere, severely.

Staff—Lieut.-Col. Thomas Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer, severely.

Missing.

8th Foot—Captain Bradbridge, Lieutenant McNair, Ensign Matthewson.

De Watteville's—Major De Villatte, Major Winter (wounded), Captains Zehender, Hecken and Steiger, Lieutenants DeBerry and Hecken (wounded), Adjutant Mermet, Assistant-Surgeon Corbea.

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

Niles' Register, Vol. 10, Page 361.

(From the Boston Patriot.)

During the siege of Fort Erie, our little army displayed more obstinate devotion to the character it had won on the plains of Chippawa, the heights of Bridgewater, and the entrenchments of Fort Erie, than can be found in the military history of any other country. It was customary for the officers commanding regiments, battalions, or companies, to volunteer for what was then called "piquet fights." They always terminated in driving the piquets of the enemy.

The solicitations for permission to engage in this kind of partizan warfare became so frequent and oftentimes so fatal to the officers commanding, that the generals who were successively in command determined to check that useless ardor, and resolved on granting no further indulgencies of the kind. At that time Colonel (then Major) Brooke, being officer of the day, after visiting our

advanced guards, came in and applied for leave to beat up the enemy's piquet. It was peremptorily refused. He pleaded the indulgence granted to others as being justly due to him, and the general commanding kindly assented. Brooke then selected about 100 men from his own command, dashed into the woods, met and drove the enemy with great slaughter, and discovered a new battery at an important point, which they were erecting under cover of the night. It became then an object of importance to annoy the fatigue parties employed on this new work, but very difficult to effect, from the thick woods concealing all their movements from the view of our lines.

Colonel Brooke, taking with him two dismounted dragoons and carrying in his hand a lantern covered with a watch coat, passed during the night their line of sentinels, ascended a tree which stood about six paces in front of the enemy's new battery, and fixed it there. A cord was attached to the watch coat, with which, when he had descended and reached the length of it, he drew the coat from the lantern, and creeping round the line of sentinels returned safe to camp. The American batteries, directed by the light of the lantern in the tree, opened their fire upon the unsuspecting workmen, who could not divine what secret spirit had betrayed the position of their laborers until they observed the light swinging in the air, nor then could form any conjecture by what daring hand it had been there suspended.

Niles' Register, Vol. 7, Page 124.

(From the Ontario Messenger.)

The following interesting particulars of the extraordinary adventure and escape of Major General Porter in the action of the 17th ult., at the batteries, we have received from our correspondent at Fort Erie, who was in the action :—

General Porter's command on that day consisted of two columns. The right column was to attack the batteries in the rear. The left, which was stationed directly back of it, was kept in reserve to meet the reinforcements which were expected from the enemy's main army. General Porter was with the right column until the blockhouse and third battery were carried; he then set out, accompanied by only two or three persons, to go to the left column, where some skirmishing had already commenced with the reinforcements. He had proceeded but a short distance in the woods, when he found himself within a few yards of 60 or 80 of the enemy who had just emerged from a ditch, and who, discovering probably that our troops were in their rear, stood formed in

two lines with their arms at rest, apparently hesitating which way to go or how to act. General Porter, finding himself within their power, and seeing that the occasion required resolution and decision, instantly left his company and running to them with the greatest boldness, exclaimed, "That's right, my good fellows, surrender and we will take care of you,"—and coming up to the man on the left he took his musket out of his hand and threw it on the ground, at the same time pushing him forward towards the fort. In this way he proceeded nearly through the first line, most of the men voluntarily throwing down their arms and advancing to the front, when all of a sudden a soldier, whose musket he was about to take, stepped back and, presenting his bayonet to General Porter's breast, demanded *his* surrender. The General seized the musket and was wresting it from him when he was assaulted by an officer who stood next in the ranks, and three or four soldiers, who after a short scuffle brought him to the ground. He, however, soon recovered his feet, when he found himself surrounded by 15 or 20 men with their guns presented to him, demanding his surrender. By this time several of our officers were advancing with their men to the scene of action, and General Porter, assuming an air of composure and decision, told the enemy that they were surrounded and prisoners, and that if they fired a gun they should all be put to the sword. Without venturing to fire, they still continued to vociferate, "Surrender, you are my prisoner," when Lieutenant Chatfield of the Cayuga Riflemen, who had got near the spot, ordered his men to fire. This drew their attention from the General, and after a momentary scene of confusion and carnage the enemy were all either killed or taken prisoners. In this affair Captain Knapp of the New York Volunteers was badly wounded by a musket ball in the side, and General Porter in the hand by the cut of a sword.

Niles' Register, Vol. 7, Page 136.

It is stated in a letter received at Pittsfield in Massachusetts, from an officer who was by the side of General Ripley in the battle of the 17th ult., that all the troops participated in the action, and towards the close of it, as the general was at the head of the 23rd Regiment, then closely engaged at the distance of twenty yards from the enemy. he received a musket shot which penetrated through his neck between the throat and the spine, entering in front of the right artery and passing out behind the left artery. His aid conveyed him from the field of battle, insensible from loss of blood. On the 20th his recovery was considered doubtful.

(From Adjutant-General's Report, New Hampshire, 1868.)

General James Miller to——

FORT ERIE, Sept. 19, 1814.

I am thankful once more to say to you that I am alive and well, after another sore conflict with the enemy on Saturday last, the 16th inst. After suffering fifty days by the investment of the enemy, under a heavy cannonading from three batteries which enfiladed almost our whole camp, suffering the loss of a considerable number every day, it was determined to take their batteries by assault or storm. To effect this it was determined by Gen. Brown to send the riflemen under Col. Gibson, Major Brooke of the Twenty Third and four hundred men, Gen. Porter with the Volunteers and Militia, with a few Indians, round through the woods in their rear, and for me with Ninth, Eleventh and Nineteenth Regiments to attack in front, to press through two of the batteries and form a junction with those in the rear or attack the batteries, as the case might require. General Ripley was to remain in reserve. My signal to move was the firing of those in the rear, as I had taken post about fifty rods in front of the enemy, in a ravine. The columns were opposed before they arrived at either of the batteries. I was ordered to advance and get into the enemy's works before the column had beaten the enemy sufficiently to meet us at the batteries. We had no alternative but to fall on them, beat them, and take them. This was a sore job for us. My command consisted of the Ninth, Eleventh and Nineteenth Regiments. Colonel Aspinwall commanded the Ninth and Nineteenth, and Colonel Bedel the Eleventh. Colonel Aspinwall lost his left arm, Major Trimble of the Nineteenth was severely, I believe mortally, wounded through the body; Captain Hale of the Eleventh killed; Captain Ingersoll of the Ninth wounded in the head, and eight other officers severely wounded, some of them mortally. Colonel Bedel was the only officer higher than a lieutenant in my whole command but what was killed or wounded. I escaped again unhurt. Our loss was betwixt 400 and 500 killed, wounded and prisoners. We took 385 prisoners, besides what we killed and wounded. We took two twenty-four pounders and a sixty-four pound carronade and a ten and a half inch mortar, drove them so hard that they spiked a twenty-four pounder themselves, and so completely routed them they have retreated back to Chippawa in disgust. We now live in peace. Deserters from them since say that their loss was estimated at rising 1,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners. . . . Since I came into Canada this time . . . . every major save one, every lieutenant-colonel, every colonel that

was here when I came and has remained here, has been killed or wounded, and I am now the only general officer out of seven that has escaped.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Colonel Baynes.

Camp Before Fort Erie,
September 19th, 1814.

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, that a body of the enemy returned to Port Talbot on the 5th inst., accompanied by the traitor Westbrook and some Indians. After burning the mills there and several houses and barns, (amongst which was that of Colonel Burwell of the Militia,) and destroying all Colonel Talbot's flour and killing several of his cattle, they advanced down the Talbot road about 15 miles, plundering and paroling the inhabitants. They then retreated to the Moravian town, about 28 miles from Port Talbot, to await the arrival of reinforcements from Detroit, when it appears (from the information of spies who have been amongst them) to be their intention to advance to Long Point, where, should they succeed in destroying the several mills in that neighborhood, the consequences will be most severely felt by the inhabitants and troops of the Right Division in particular.

Colonel Talbot has detached Captain Bostwick and 60 men of the Militia to assist the settlers in checking the advance of the enemy again.

The infamous disposition of the enemy cannot be more strongly evinced than in the wanton burning the buildings of Colonel Burwell, whom they have already carried off as a prisoner on a former occasion.

Major General Brown to Governor Tompkins.

Fort Erie, September 20th, 1814.

Sir,—Your Excellency is no doubt aware how much the army under my command has suffered from the fire of the enemy's batteries, of which the first and second were not more than 500 yards distant. Soon after my arrival I ascertained that they were night and day employed in erecting a third, to the right of the others, which could rake obliquely our whole encampment. About the 12th this new work was nearly completed, and in it were mounted some long twenty-four pounders. Being very impatient under the fire of the old, and knowing that our difficulties would

increase from the opening of a new, battery, I determined to hazard a sortie with a view of carrying them and destroying the cannon. On the 17th an order was given to this effect, and executed in the most gallant style. The batteries were carried, the principal work blown up, and the cannon effectually destroyed. It was a desperate conflict. The loss of the enemy cannot be less than 800 men. Our own is severe, in officers particularly. The Militia of New York have redeemed their character; they behaved gallantly. General Davis was killed and General Porter slightly wounded in the hand. Of the Militia that were called out by the last requisition fifteen hundred have crossed. This reinforcement has been of immense importance to us. It doubled our effective strength, and their good conduct can but have the happiest effect upon the nation. These brave men deserve well of their country, and I flatter myself that the Legislature about to convene will notice them, as becomes the representatives of a generous people.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Camp Before Fort Erie, 21st Sept., 1814.

Sir,—Within these last few days the sickness of the troops has increased to such an alarming degree, and their situation has really become one of such extreme wretchedness from the torrents of rain which have continued to fall for the last 13 days, and from the circumstance of the division being entirely destitute of camp equipage, that I feel it to be my duty no longer to persevere in a vain attempt to maintain a blockade of so vastly a superior and increasing a force of the enemy. I have therefore given orders for the troops to fall back towards the Chippawa, and shall commence my movement at eight o'clock this evening, at which hour the troops will take up a position about a mile in rear of their present camp, and in which, if attacked by the enemy tomorrow morning, the brave handful of troops which I command will at least have the advantage of fighting on ground tolerably open, whereas their present camp literally resembles a lake in the midst of a thick wood. It has been reported that a column of the enemy has been moving on the Lake Road towards Tyce Horn's; should he detach a strong column by that road, and at the same time attack in front, I shall, if made with resolution, be a good deal embarrassed, as my numbers are reduced to considerably less than 2,000 firelocks.

The greatest part of the sick and all other encumbrances are by this time far on their way to Chippawa, and I hope to be able

to move as far as Black Creek to-morrow with the whole of the troops.

I have already acquainted Your Excellency with the alarming state to which Fort Niagara has been reduced by the late unprecedented heavy rains. I have this day received undoubted information of the movement of part of General Izard's army upon Fort Erie. These untoward circumstances, together with want of ammunition and my increasing difficulties with respect to provisions, added to the protracted period to which we have to look for supplies and reinforcements by the squadron from Kingston, and the rapidly increasing force of the enemy, altogether render my situation and that of the whole of this frontier extremely critical. Of the militia which have been called out on the opposite frontier, the enemy has had the address to induce three-fourths to cross over to Fort Erie, in which, by every information which I have been able to obtain, he has not at this moment less than 3,000 of that description of force, exclusive of a regular force of nearly the same amount on this frontier. I have not been able to force out half as many hundreds betwixt this place and Burlington.

I state these circumstances to shew Your Excellency the absolute necessity of the measure which I have been under the necessity of adopting.

With a view to enable me to relieve some of the exhausted corps with this division, I have directed Major-General Kempt to send up the Canadian Fencibles or any other corps of the Centre Division which he may consider from numbers or efficiency better calculated for the severe service of this frontier.

In the meantime I have detached the remainder of the King's Regiment and battalion companies of De Watteville's to reinforce the forts. If the rain continues (of which there is every appearance) for a very short time, the engineer officer has serious apprehensions that the whole of the earthworks will come down, and in the present state of the weather it is impossible to do anything to check or repair the damage.

21st September, 1814, 3 P. M.

Private Memorandum:

The troops will change ground and take a position near Frenchman's Creek, the left of which is at present occupied by the 97th Regiment. An officer of the quarter-master-general's department will point out the ground and lead the columns. They will move there this evening immediately after tattoo has sounded.

All fires to be left burning and huts standing. No tents to be left standing on any account.

The picquets are at the same time to fall back to the open ground on the left of the concession road, where the old reserve used to be posted, from whence they will further retire after the troops have taken up their new position to another, guided by an officer of the staff who will be sent for that purpose.

J. HARVEY,
D. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS, GANDER'S,
23rd September, 1814.

District General Order.

Arrangement:

Corps.	*Station.*
19th Light Dragoons	Andrew Miller's, with advance parties on that road and toward Frenchman's Creek.
Glengarry Light Infantry	Palmer's, with one company advanced to Adrew Miller's, to support the Cavalry.
Incorporated Militia	Palmer's and adjacent.
Western Indians	do. do. do.
97th Regiment	Black Creek.
Two 6-pd. field pieces	do. do.
1st Batt. Royal Scots	Street's Grove and adjacent.
One 6-pd. and detachment of rocketeers	do. do. do.
6th Regiment	Chippawa.
Two 24-pounders One 6-pounder One howitzer	do.
82nd Regiment	Lundy's Lane.
89th Regiment 104th Flank Co.'s	Queenston.
De Watteville's King's 41st Regiment	The Forts.
103rd	Burlington.

Major-General Stovin will be pleased to fix his headquarters at or in the immediate neighborhood of Fort George.

Major-General DeWatteville will be considered as in the imme-

diate command of the troops at or in advance of Chippawa, and will place his headquarters to some convenient point, to be notified to Major-General Stovin and the Lieutenant-General Commanding.

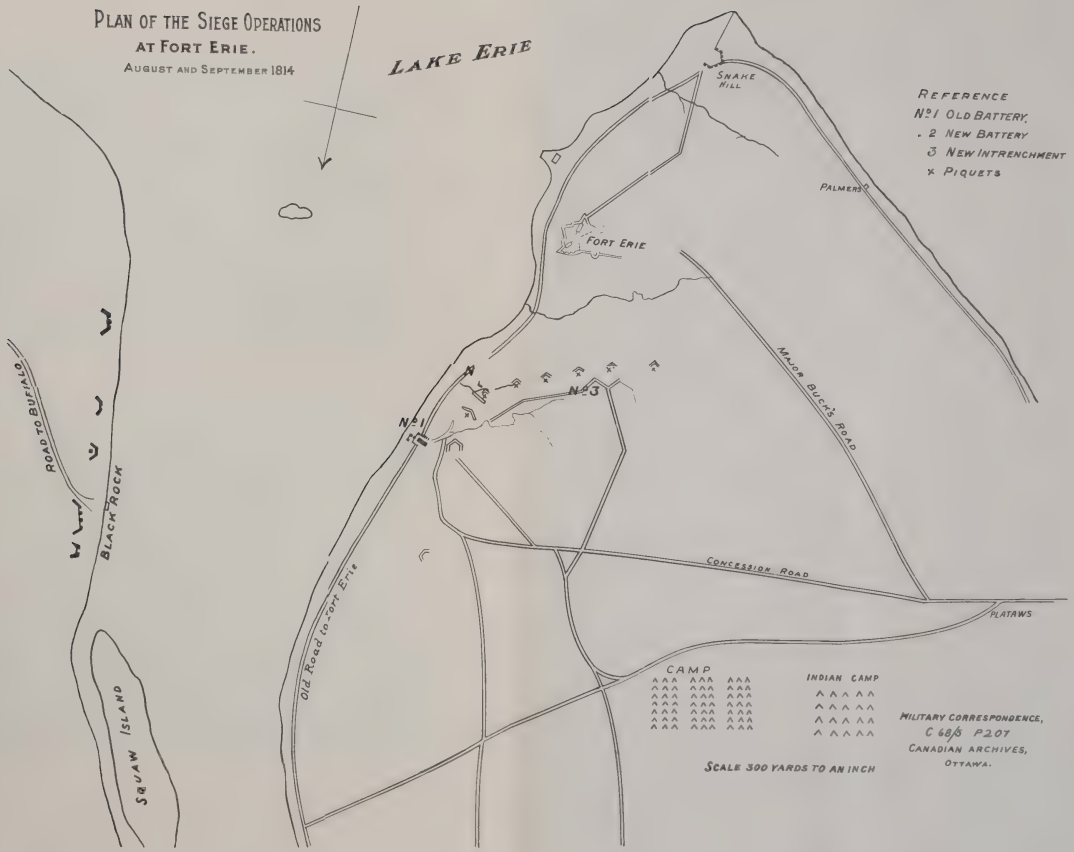
J. HARVEY, D. A. G.,

NOTE.—Major-General DeWatteville's headquarters are at Gander's, one mile below Black Creek. Those of the Lieutenant-General Commanding at Forsyth's, near the Falls.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 24th Sept., 1814.

The troops fell back at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 21st to the position alluded to in my letter of that date, and bivouacked for the night under torrents of rain. Soon after daylight on the 22nd the enemy discovered our movement, and pushed out his picquets. They were soon met by our picquets posted on the plain opposite Black Rock, and immediately retreated after exchanging a few shots without attempting to molest them. Having waited until two o'clock, as well for the purpose of giving battle to the enemy, should he have ventured out, as for giving time for the movement of all encumbrances behind the Black Creek, I ordered the troops to retire across Frenchman's Creek, and the bridge across that creek to be destroyed. A cavalry picquet was left to watch this bridge, and the troops then proceeded to take up their cantonments as described in the enclosed order and sketch. The whole of the movement has this day been completed, and the troops are now in comfortable quarters, where it is my intention to give them a few days' repose. By a reference to the map Your Excellency will perceive that the position which the troops occupy extends on the left to within three miles of Fort Erie, and by Miller's Road on the right limits the enemy's incursions (in the event of his venturing so far) to a distance of less than nine miles, which space has long ago been completely exhausted of its resources. Should the enemy attempt to penetrate toward Chippawa, (in force,) he will be first met by Major-General De Watteville at Black Creek with the 97th Regiment and Royals, the Glengarry Light Infantry, Incorporated Militia and Indians, with two 6-pounders and a squadron of Dragoons. I can have no apprehensions of his making any impression or meeting with anything but defeat. If found necessary, however, General De Watteville falls back upon Chippawa, where, with the 6th and 82nd Regiments and four additional field-pieces, and the natural strength of that position, I will not suppose it


PLAN OF THE SIEGE OPERATIONS
AT FORT ERIE.
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1814
LAKE ERIE
SNAKE HILL
REFERENCE
№1 OLD BATTERY.
. 2 NEW BATTERY
3 NEW INTRENCHMENT
× PIQUETS
PALMERS
FORT ERIE
MAJOR BUCK'S ROAD
№3
№2
№1
ROAD TO BUFFALO
BLACK ROCK
CONCESSION ROAD
PLATAWS
Old Road to Fort Erie
SQUAW ISLAND
CAMP
INDIAN CAMP
SCALE 300 YARDS TO AN INCH
MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE,
C 68/8 P207
CANADIAN ARCHIVES,
OTTAWA.

possible for any numbers to make any impression. The advantage therefore of this distribution of the troops in a defensive point of view, will, I think, strike Your Excellency. With regard to offensive operations, particularly if it be undertaken on the other side of the river, it would enable me to masque the movement of my whole force except a few dragoons and light troops left at the outposts. It is also leaves a large portion of my force disposable for the left of my line, (Fort George, &c.,) and equally would enable me to collect the whole more rapidly on either flank. I have stationed Major-General Stovin on the left, in the forts. My own headquarters I have placed as near the centre as possible (at the Falls.) I propose going to inspect the state of the forts, particularly Fort Niagara, to-morrow morning. My utmost attention is given to that post, which, by all accounts, is perfectly open. I will communicate more fully after I have seen it. Your Excellency will find, from the enclosed copy of letter from Captain Hill of the 41st, that the first division of prisoners of war taken on Lake Erie and at the Moravian village have at length been sent across at Long Point.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

District Headquarters,
Falls of Niagara, 24th Sept., 1814.

Sir,—Your Excellency's letters of the 15th and 16th, brought by Captain Rainsford, 104th, reached me last night. To that which enclosed private letters you did me the honor to address to me in answer to mine of the 17th ultimo, I shall have the honor of returning a separate reply. In proceeding to notice the contents of the other two, I am to observe that no communication has been received from the Adjutant-General relative to the duties of an Assistant Provost. I shall defer the appointment which Your Excellency is pleased to authorize me to make for the Right Division until I have received the communication alluded to.

The observations contained in the concluding paragraph of the letter of the 15th, (in Your Excellency's own handwriting,) embrace a wide field. As, however, any attempt at the realization of the proposed plan must depend upon a contingency which has not yet happened, viz.: the fall of Fort Erie, it may be sufficient for the present to observe that, with regard to Amherstburg, the difficulty probably consists more in the deficiency of provisions and transport than of any other means. The same difficulty must be equally applicable to every other operation in this country, as it prevents the collection at any point of an adequate force for any object.

These difficulties we must continue to experience until our squadron appears superior on the lake, and even then the transport which Commodore Sir James Yeo may think it prudent to afford the departments will, I fear, prove very inadequate to the relief of all the wants of this division.

I quite agree with Your Excellency that Upper Canada, particularly when we have the command of Lake Ontario, will offer the best theatre for our operations against the enemy. Sackett's Harbor is the object on which our eyes should be steadily fixed, but it is no longer in that state that admits of any other attack than that of the most regular and powerful description. In inviting my support to be given to Major-General Kempt, I could have wished Your Excellency had been more explicit as to the nature of the support which may be expected of me. The personal esteem which I entertain for Major-General Kempt is not wanting to stimulate the zealous desire, which I trust I have always felt, to promote not only such an enterprise as that of which the preparations have been committed to him, but every enterprise which has for its object the annoyance of the enemy. I have been in correspondence with Major-General Kempt, and am fully prepared to receive any further communication on the subject with which Your Excellency may favor me. With regard to Presqu' Isle, any enterprise against that place is at present wholly impracticable. I feel a strong conviction, however, (and have communicated that impression to Sir James Yeo,) that Captain Dobbs, if 200 more seamen, with five or six proper boats, were placed at his disposal, would recover the naval ascendency on Lake Erie (by attacking the enemy's two brigs at anchor off Fort Erie, with as much ease and as much certainty of success as he effected the capture of the two schooners.

Mrs. Hannah Jenoway to her Sister-in-law.

HOPE COTTAGE, FORT GEORGE,
14th September, 1814.

MY DEAR SISTER,—It is with great pleasure I write these lines to you of our good fortune so far, and I hope and trust in the Almighty for its continuance. It is now five months since your brother was made Assistant Engineer at this place, and I am glad to say his emoluments are very great, and so are his exertions. I only fear he will be ill with his great assiduity. We are now living in a cottage of his own building. I assure you I am quite delighted with it, but am greatly afraid of our good luck not lasting long, as it seems to me to be too good to remain any length of time. We

have a fine horse and carriage of the country, which just holds our family and a little baggage. I have now been with my husband three months, which is the longest period we have been together since we came to Canada. After I left Mrs. Robinson's family at Kingston, which was on the eleventh of December, Mr. Jenoway having got leave of absence for three weeks to take us up to York, where I remained at a boarding school, I had one room and boarded with the family, and paid at the rate of one hundred a year. I stopped until the sixth of June, when I left to join my husband, who was at Queenston, having been ordered from Fort George to erect fortifications there. I had only been there a fortnight when five thousand of the Yankees landed above Fort Erie. Mr. Jenoway was left to command Queenston and the fortifications he had constructed, but unfortunately our army had to retire after a hard battle, with only fifteen hundred of the British to oppose so many of the enemy; consequently your brother had to blow up the batteries and make the best of his way to Fort George with his men and guns. Previous to that, about nine o'clock in the night, I was obliged to make my retreat with the children. When we had got four miles from Queenston, six Indians rushed out of the bush and asked me for my money. The servant was so frightened that he durst not speak to them, but I had courage enough to make them understand I was an officer's lady, when they immediately went away. You may easily suppose what a tremor I was in. On we went towards the Twelve. Before we got within six miles of it our servant upset us. Fortunately we had no limbs broken, only much bruised. We were near a Mr. Thompson's, where we staid three weeks, with the Yankees within four miles of us, and [they] came a few times within a mile and-a-half of us. After the Americans had retired to St. David's and Queenston, my dear husband fetched us to Fort George, made the family a present of twenty dollars and drove off. My poor little Michael and his brother is, and have been for several weeks, alarmingly ill of the ague and lake fever. It is a second attack on him. There are several men, women and children sick of it at this time. It is nearly as bad here for that disease as in (illegible) only not so dangerous. Hannah is very well and grows a fine girl, but very backward in her talking. Your brother has pretty good health at present, but is almost hurried off his legs. I assure you he is so very much employed that I have little of his company, as he has the entire command of the Engineer's Department at Fort Missassagua and Fort George. The former is a large, new post, which he had the direction of at the commencement, and [is] considered the largest and of most importance of any in Upper Canada.

Address to us, R. O. Jenoway, First Battalion Royal Scots, Fort George, or elsewhere, Upper Canada, America.

Report of Col. W. L. Churchill's Regiment, 17th September, 1814.

Col. W. L. Churchill and the officers under his command desire to have mention made of their bravery. Col. Churchill and Major Wills behaved with undaunted courage and the greatest steadiness until about the close of the action, when they unfortunately fell into the hands of the enemy and were made prisoners. Major S. Kellogg likewise behaved worthy of praise, until General Davis fell near him, about the close of the action. He was then engaged in moving him off the battleground, with the assistance of Major Dunham of Col. Crosby's Regiment. They secured their retreat with the General into our camp. Qt. M. O. Wilcox, who volunteered as aide-de-camp to General Davis, during the day discovered great activity and steadiness.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Jasper Parrish to General Porter.

BUFFALO, Sept. 18, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the night of the 16th inst. one of our Indians, viz.: a Deleware who was taken prisoner by the enemy at the Chippaway battle, made his escape by crossing the Niagara on a raft from the upper part of the rapids, near Fort Erie, and landed below Squaw Island. He brings no information, except that the enemy are numerous and that part of their Indians have left them and have gone home. He also states that provision is very scarce. Some part of the time they draw half rations.

N. B.—This Indian whom I speak of arrived ten days since from Burlington Heights. He does not know what number of Indians there is at that place.

It was out of my power to prevail on the Tuscarora Indians to cross. 27 in number were at this place, and have returned home. Two Indian warriors arrived here yesterday from Cattaragus, (say the old war chief and one other.) I have not been able to get any information whether there was any more coming from that part or any other, excepting a few from this place, which you may expect over as soon as the weather will permit.

I still remain in ill health, but in hopes of gaining soon. I have a slow fever daily.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

NORTHERN ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
BATAVIA, September 28th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 21st instant the fleet, under Commodore Chauncey, sailed in the forenoon from Sackett's Harbor, and the wind favoring us we were off the mouth of the Genesee River the next morning early. The troops were all disembarked before night and encamped near the lake. Every exertion was used to collect a sufficient number of wagons and horses for the transportation of our camp equipage and provisions, but our appearance being unexpected, and that part of the country thinly peopled, it was not until the 24th that we could resume our march. Part of the tents and stores were unavoidably left, to follow as fast as means could be procured for the purpose. Through excessively bad roads and amidst continued and heavy rains, we proceeded, the officers of every grade, with very few exceptions, being dismounted. On the 26th, some hours before night, the whole of our corps arrived in good spirits at this village, and with a less proportion of men disabled for immediate duty than could under such circumstances have been expected.

It was not until I had been here part of a day that I received a letter from General Brown, for the first time since we sailed from Sackett's Harbor. His messenger had sought me at the 18 Mile Creek and at Genesee River.

The successful sortie of the 17th, which I now learnt, would have induced me to remain on the Ridge Road, in order to approach Fort Niagara with less fatigue to the men. The want of artillery, however, would have rendered the attack impracticable until I should be supplied from Buffalo and the little arsenal at this place.

Yesterday I met Major-General Brown by appointment, and obtained from him such details as are necessary for the concert of our proceedings. Lieutenant-General Drummond's further operations against Fort Erie are in all probability abandoned for this campaign. He is reported to have destroyed the bridges at Frenchman's Creek and Chippawa, and to have covered himself with his field works on the latter stream. His effective force probably does not exceed three thousand men, besides the garrisons of Forts George, Niagara, and their dependencies, and these cannot be complete. I have therefore determined on besieging Fort Niagara, while Brown's division (which is not a little reduced by the numerous and sanguinary conflicts in which it has been engaged,) shall hold him in check on the western side of the strait. We shall be but badly furnished with artillery. With the exception of one heavy twenty-four pounder on a truck carriage at Fort Erie, there

are no pieces of larger calibre than eighteens, and these light, and their carriages wanting repairs. I have directed the latter to be commenced immediately, and in as short a time as possible shall transport towards Lewiston, by land and water, six or eight of the eighteen pounders, and the only two mortars which can be found. With these I hope after a few days of open trenches to restore to the United States the shamefully lost Fortress of Niagara. My intention is yet a secret to all but Major-General Brown and my Chief Engineer, Major Totten. I shall endeavor to mislead the enemy into a belief that I am about to land a force on the north side of Lake Erie in order to possess myself of Burlington Heights.

The detachments which I was obliged to forward by land from Sackett's Harbor cannot be expected in less than a week; neither will the squadron of Light Dragoons join us sooner. The roads and weather oppose any rapid movement. Indeed, when I look back on the distance which we have come since we left our position in front of a superior enemy on the Champlain line, I am surprised at the little time and few accidents which have attended our progress.

The experience of the last campaign proves the necessity of adopting timely measures for the accommodation and comfort of the troops during the winter. Disease consequent on the severity of the climate, exposure at a late season and bad diet, destroyed ten times more men than fell by the hands of the enemy. The force now assembling on this frontier, small as it is in numbers, is great in value to the United States. It should not be forgotten that they were raw recruits only a few months ago, and that they have been engaged in active service ever since. Their instruction as soldiers is consequently far from what it might be, although the essentials of soldiership—as obedience, hardihood and courage—are theirs. In the repose of winter quarters they can acquire what is yet alone wanting to render them equal, if not superior, to any troops on earth. Round these may be assembled the recruits from the interior. The officers of all grades should be made to remain with them. Applications for leave of absence, except made in very urgent circumstances should be refused. In this manner discipline and order will be established, the many individuals who yet disgrace their military appointments will be known and driven from the army, and early in the spring, before the enemy can receive reinforcements from Europe, the most important blows may be struck.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 28th September, 1814.

SIR,—Since my letter of the 24th, nothing of importance has occurred. A considerable part of the enemy's militia having returned to their own shores, deserters from their regulars have again begun to come in to our outposts, which are still at Frenchman's Creek. The enemy has no picquet beyond the ferry, and that only by day, and he is represented as in constant apprehension of a surprise. I enclose a copy of my instructions to Major-General De Watteville and to Deputy-Commissary Turquand on the resources, &c., of this portion of the frontier, extending from Frenchman's Creek to the Chippawa. Notwithstanding every effort, however, which it may be possible to make, I cannot divest myself of the greatest degree of alarm on the score of provisions, &c., and I have earnestly to hope that nothing may happen to retard the sailing of the squadron to our relief very early in the ensuing month.

I have visited the forts, and I find that of Niagara in a deplorable state as to defence against any attack by heavy cannon, the foundation of the parapet having given way, and with it the frieze; the picketing, however, remains, except on the southeast bastion towards Fort George, where by an immense breach in the earthwork the picketing has been carried off on the lake face. Almost the whole of the parapet has sunk, and in the centre demi-bastion it has been necessary to remove the gun. Nothing but piles will support any superstructure, and the difficulty attending this mode of repairs will be very great.

Besides our grand wants of provisions, ammunition and guns, we are in want of entrenching tools and carpenter's tools, boards, nails, stoves, &c., &., before we can either repair our forts or cover our troops for the winter. In the meantime they are very well accommodated in the barns along the frontier, and are fast recovering from the effects of their late suffering, and will be fit for any service in a few days, or rather are at this moment ready to undertake any operations which the movements of the enemy may render necessary.

P. S.—I have to repeat my request that the enemy's militia, taken by me on the 17th and forwarded to the number of near 200 men to Lower Canada on the 26th, may be detained as long as possible from their homes.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

(No. 194.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
30th September, 1814.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to Your Lordship the enclosed copy of a despatch I have received from Lieutenant-General Drummond, reporting the result of a sortie made by the enemy, with a large proportion of his force, from Fort Erie, on the 17th inst., in which the very superior numbers of the American army were at length repulsed with great loss by the intrepid valor and determined bravery of the division of troops under the Lieutenant-General's command.

A copy of Major-General DeWatteville's report, and the return of the killed, wounded and missing upon this occasion, are annexed, and altho' in this affair we have suffered a considerable loss, it will be satisfactory to your Lordship to learn that Lieutenant-General Drummond represents the conduct and spirit displayed by the officers and men engaged as deserving of the highest commendation.

The subsequent reports which I have received from Lieutenant-General Drummond, to the 21st inst., state that in consequence of the inclement weather from the torrents of rain which had fallen in the preceding thirteen days, and the sickness prevailing from that circumstance, he felt it his duty no longer to persevere in a vain attempt to maintain the blockade of so vastly superior and increasing a force of the enemy, and that it was his intention to retire towards Chippawa by commencing his movement on the evening of the 21st.

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of Navy.

U. S. SHIP "SUPERIOR,"
OFF THE DUCKS, Oct. 1, 1814.

SIR,—On the 28th ult., at daylight, we discovered two of the enemy's ships standing out of Kingston under press of sail. As soon as they discovered us they hove to. The wind being fresh from the northward and eastward, and fair to leave Kingston, I was impressed with the belief that Sir James had got his large ship ready and was coming out with his whole fleet. I immediately made sail to get the wind, but as soon as we tacked for them the enemy's ships filled, made sail on the wind, and soon after tacked from us. The weather being hazy it soon became so thick a fog that we could not observe objects at more than 100 yards distance. I, however, continued to beat to windward, and late in the after-

noon it cleared up for a short time, when we discovered the enemy's two ships outside of the Nine Mile Point. As soon as he discovered that we had neared him considerably and in a situation to cut him off from Kingston if he ventured farther out, he immediately made all sail and beat into his anchorage.

As no other part of the enemy's squadron made its appearance, and these two ships from their manœuvres evidently wished to escape us, it struck me that the enemy had learnt the movements of General Izard up the lake, and apprehending an attack upon General Drummond's army (which probably also was distressed for provisions) had induced him to put on board these two ships troops and provisions and risk them for the relief of his army on the Niagara frontier; the wind and foggy weather also favored such a movement. I determined to frustrate his designs, if possible. Soon after sundown I anchored the fleet between the Galooes and Grenadier Island for the purpose of keeping them together, and put Lieutenant Skinner with an additional number of men on board the *Lady of the Lake*, with orders to anchor between Pigeon and Snake Islands, and if he discovered any movement of the enemy to make signal with rockets or guns his number, etc. It continued a thick fog during the night; the enemy made no movement, and the next morning (29th) the weather cleared up with the wind to the westward; weighed with the fleet and stood in for Kingston until we opened the town; sent the *Lady of the Lake* close in to reconnoitre and ascertain the state of forwardness of the new ship. Lieutenant Skinner found her hauled on in the stream and completely rigged out, but sails not bent; four other ships and a large schooner lying also in the stream and apparently ready to sail. From present appearances I have no doubt but the enemy will be on the lake in the course of a week with his whole force, and I think his first movement will be to attempt to retrieve at Sackett's Harbor what he lost at Plattsburg. I hope, however, that he will meet with the same gallant resistance upon this lake that he experienced on Lake Champlain.

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Ship "Superior,"
Off the Ducks, Oct. 2, 1814.

Sir,—Having a very commanding breeze yesterday, I sent the *Lady of the Lake* into Kingston to reconnoitre. She stood close in with the forts and shipping, keeping just without range of their shot, and had a fair view. The ships lay in the same position as on the 29th, and the large ship still without her sails bent. No

visible preparations to embark troops. I shall watch them in this position as long as possible without endangering the fleet.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS,
2nd October, 1814.

SIR,—Since my last of the 28th September, no material movement has been made on either side. A patrole of a corporal and six men of the 19th Dragoons has, I am sorry to say, been cut off and made prisoners by a party of three hundred men, which the enemy detached for that purpose. The dragoons must have been most culpably careless and confident, or the circumstance could not have happened. A reprisal was yesterday made by a small party of our dragoons under Captain Chambers, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, who captured a foragemaster and three of their dragoons near Tyce Horne's, on the Lake Road, and were very near making prisoners of the whole party, (headed by the traitor Marakle,) the light company of the 97th being part of the force detached under Captain Chambers.

In consequence of information I had received of the enemy's having received a very considerable reinforcement of regular troops under the command of General Izard, I have made arrangements for concentrating the troops behind the Chippawa, having the advance post at Black Creek. This arrangement will very much diminish the comfort which the troops experience in their present cantonments, but is a necessary precaution. Through the exertions of the parties of the Incorporated Militia employed on that duty, the greatest part of the grain in possession of the farmers in front of Chippawa has been threshed out, and the produce generally withdrawn for the use of the army. The inhabitants themselves had driven their cattle behind the Black Creek on the first movement of the troops, and I have this day sent parties under Captain Powell of the Quartermaster General's department to cause them to be removed behind Lyons' Creek and the Chippawa tomorrow; therefore it is my intention to withdraw the Royals and 97th across the Chippawa, leaving the light companies of the 6th, 82d and 97th Regiments under Major Stewart, the Glengarry Light Infantry, a squadron of the 19th Dragoons, with one gun, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, in advance, extending to the Black Creek, at which position some field works have been thrown up by the 97th Regiment under the direction of Major-General De Watteville, to guard the water flank. I have requested

Captain Dobbs to man and move one of the captured schooners out of the Chippawa and place her at the lower end of Grand Island.

Having no certain account of the enemy's intentions, or of the exact accession of force which he may have received, (it is reported to be 2,500 Regulars,) I can only make general precautionary arrangements to meet his attack, which I imagine it will be his object not to delay, as he must be aware of the state of equipment of our new ship, and must believe that the first object of our squadron will be to bring reinforcements (and supplies) to this army, against which the enemy is now evidently turning all his disposable means. That it will continue to do its duty, I feel the firmest confidence, but I fear it may again be called upon to make greater efforts than it is either prudent to risque or politic to exact, if it be possible to avoid the alternative. I now begin to feel very sensibly the want of an efficient *Field* Commissariat: I mean inferior officers of that department, accustomed to use great personal exertions in discovering and collecting the resources of a country. If any such have accompanied the troops from Europe they would be invaluable. In the meantime, I must employ the officers and men of the Incorporated Militia and pay them for their labors.

P. S.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 23rd in cypher.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.
(No. 197.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
4th October, 1814.

(Secret.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to Your Lordship the enclosed extract from a letter just received from Lieutenant-General Drummond, in order that His Majesty's Government may view the difficulties attending military operations in Canada when carried on without adequate naval support.

I now begin to hope their termination to be fast approaching, as the superiority on Lake Ontario will scarcely be disputed after our large ship appears upon it, an event expected on the 15th inst.

For the purpose of consulting with Sir James Yeo and Lieutenant-General Drummond on the possibility of availing ourselves to the utmost of this long looked for advantage before the campaign is brought to a close by the severity of the weather, I propose proceeding tomorrow to Kingston, and I shall avail myself of the opportunity it will present for the construction of vessels

for Lake Erie at Long Point, and for Lake Huron at Matchedash, and in making the necessary arrangements for opening the next campaign by an attack on Sackett's Harbor.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,

NIAGARA FALLS, 6th October, 1814.

SIR,—Referring to my last letter, (2d,) I have now the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that an extensive encampment was discovered opposite to Queenston (at some distance in the interior) early this morning Lights and fires had been observed during the whole of last night, for the first time. I cannot doubt that this is General Izard's force. A number of mounted officers have been seen reconnoitering the banks of the river opposite Queenston at different times to-day. On the right, every report that I have lately received concurs in representing that the preparations the enemy have been for some time making to advance as quite complete. Major-General DeWatteville, therefore, expects to find Brown opposite to him every hour. The Major-General still continues at Black Creek at my request, notwithstanding there is nothing at present in front of the Chippawa but the Glengarry Light Infantry, four light companies, a few men of the Incorporated Militia and two field pieces. If pressed, he is directed to fall back upon the 6th Regiment at Chippawa, and to defend that post. What the enemy's plans are I can only conjecture. The advanced season of the year, the prospect of the arrival of our squadron, the severity (cold) of the weather, the difficulty he must find in supplying his army in that situation—all these reasons must urge General Izard to do quickly whatever he means to attempt. If Fort Niagara be his object, I hope he will find the re-capture of that place not to be easily effected. If he is bold enough to cross the river I trust the (unavoidably) small force I shall leave at Chippawa will prove sufficient to check Major-General Brown long enough to enable me, with the remainder of my small number of disposable troops, to attack and defeat the invader. The crisis to which I have been for some time looking is at hand, and I feel confident it will at least prove to us an honorable if not a brilliant one.

My alarm on the score of provisions increases. The resources of some of the (reported) most abundant townships of this frontier have, on a scrutiny, greatly disappointed our expectations. In short, nothing but the squadron can relieve us.

P. S.—I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 26th in cypher.

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

NORTHERN ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
NEAR LEWISTON, October 7th, 1814.

(Extract.)

On the 1st of this month I moved from Batavia with the troops, which had accompanied me by water from Sackett's Harbor for that point. My route was through a wilderness, the greater part swamp, twenty-six miles in extent, until I reached the Ridge Road, (thirty-five miles east of this place;) from thence the road is good. We arrived here the day before yesterday in the morning, having encamped the preceding night at a deserted hamlet six miles off. If boats could have been procured we should have surprised a British battalion laying at Queenston. Unluckily every description of craft has been removed from this shore by the enemy.

Major-Generals Brown and P. B. Porter met me the same evening. The opinions of these officers are decidedly that we should concentrate our forces south of Chippawa River, (which stream has not yet been abandoned by General Drummond,) and defer the attack of the forts at the mouth of Niagara River so long as he is in the field. I enclose a copy of the note I addressed after the conversation to Major-General Brown, and his answer. As soon as I hear again from him I will march to Schlosser and cross my brigades to the Canada shore.

Two parties which were sent out last night to reconnoitre Fort Niagara and the intervening ground, have just now returned. The enemy has drawn all his garrison within his walls, and is adding to his defences both there and at Fort George. Early this morning a body of infantry, reported to be eight hundred men, marched from the latter fort towards Queenston. They were accompanied by baggage wagons, and are probably going to reinforce their army above.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
NIAGARA FALLS, 10th October, 1814.

SIR,—Since my communication to Major General Kempt (of the 7th) the greatest part of the enemy's force under General Izard has moved upwards. The object of this movement I have not yet been able to ascertain. From several sources of information, however, to which I have access, I have undoubted intelligence (confirmed by deserters,) that a great effort is about to be made by the enemy to capture or to force this division back from this frontier,

on which it is obvious he proposes to cover his troops during the winter. General Brown has received a reinforcement of regular troops from Detroit, variously stated from five hundred to a thousand; three hundred dragoons have also joined him from Pennsylvania and about two hundred riflemen have been added to his 4th regiment. Two thousand militiamen are daily expected at Fort Erie and have been seen on their way. Horses have been passed over for the artillery at Fort Erie and are constantly trained to the field guns. General Brown's force cannot be estimated at less than six thousand (including three thousand militia), that of General Izard, *six* regiments of regulars. Their mode of attack does not yet seem decided on. I do not think it improbable that, having the undisturbed possession of Lake Erie and feeling the difficulty of forcing the passage of this, *Chippawa*, he may attempt to gain our rear by the *Grand River* or by *Long Point*. Such a movement, though offering great obstacles to the enemy, (particularly if the inhabitants do their duty by removing the cattle and wagons,) yet, as it would compel me to detach from the small force under my command, could not fail of very much embarrassing me, particularly as I should have to watch and to meet the attack of the troops under General Izard, who, it is understood, is to operate on the right bank of the Niagara.

The following changes have been made in the distribution of the troops since my last: the advance posts are still a little in front of the Black Creek, the bridge over which has been destroyed, and from which I have thought it prudent to withdraw the troops and guns, with the exception of a detachment of 50 men of the Glengarry Light Infantry; the remainder of that regiment is stationed at Street's Grove; the 6th Regiment at Chippawa, with the Incorporated Militia at Wisehorn's on the forks of the Lyons and Chippawa, about a mile above the mouth of the latter, and on which a field work is now constructing, to be armed with a long 12-pounder. The right of the position is further watched by small parties of militia and dragoons extending as high as Brown's bridge, sixteen miles up the Chippawa, and to Cook's Mills, ten miles up the Lyon's Creek. It is my intention also to throw the Indians over this river, and, unless assailed in my centre by the forces under General Izard, I do not apprehend its being possible for the enemy to force it and to turn the position of Chippawa, which I do not think he will venture to attack *in front;* that is, if I am allowed a couple of days to mount the guns proposed to be placed in the battery at that place, and of which a sketch shall accompany my next letter. The 97th, 82d, and Royals are cantoned from Bridgewater to Stamford. They can be concentrated at or near Chippawa in two hours' time.

A force consisting of the 89th and 100th Regiments, flank companies, 104th, one troop, 19th Dragoons, with two six-pounders, under Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Tweeddale, occupies Queenston; the remaining corps, viz: 8th, 41st, and De Watteville's, are in the Forts Missasauga, Niagara, and Fort George.

I have ordered the formation of a small depot of ammunition and provisions at the Twelve Mile Creek, to which place the baggage of the army will be sent in case of attack. The brigs and schooners, under Captain Dobbs, have been employed in removing the sick to York and the Forty Mile Creek. I willingly avail myself of this occasion to express my warm approbation of the cordial and zealous co-operation which I have uniformly experienced from Captain Dobbs of the Royal Navy, whose whole conduct while acting with this division entitles him and the officers and seamen under his command to our grateful acknowledgments.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 30th, enclosing a copy of one to Sir James Yeo in cypher.

Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.

HEADQUARTERS,
KINGSTON, October 11th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of September 28th, with its enclosures.

I feel and regret very sensibly the serious inconvenience you have at present to encounter on the score of provisions. You may rely on every possible exertion being made to remove your apprehensions on that account. Immediately on my arrival here I have communicated with the Commodore as to his prospect of affording you relief, and the extent to which he will be able to do it.

The *St. Lawrence* will be ready to take the lake in two or three days, and will then, accompanied by the rest of the squadron, sail for Niagara with the first fair wind.

I enclose a return of the supplies you may expect. The *St. Lawrence* has stowage for a greater quantity than that which is assigned to her, but she already draws 21 feet of water, a depth for which the Commodore already feels some alarm and would deem it imprudent to increase. In taking on board all she could carry she would be lowered two feet more.

I am unwilling to urge anything which might be construed into risk of this important vessel. In addition to the supplies detailed in the enclosed statement, the squadron have on board six weeks' provisions, the remainder of which the Commodore proposes

leaving with you on his quitting Niagara, retaining only such a quantity as may be necessary to bring him into port.

The enemy's squadron have disappeared from the neighborhood, and the *Montreal* is gone on a reconnoissance.

Upon the information she brings, the Commodore will be able to conclude his ultimate arrangements. In the meantime the 90th Regiment is held in readiness to embark or proceed by land, as circumstances may direct.

Should the enemy's squadron show a disposition to remain in Sackett's Harbor it is the determination of Sir James Yeo to order down the three vessels that are now at the head of the lake, and he will employ them in transporting reinforcements and supplies.

Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,
11th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have this moment received your letters of the 2d and 6th inst. The secret intelligence transmitted to you by Major-General Kempt had prepared you for the arrival of Major-General Izard at Queenston, and the precautionary measures you have pursued in consequence appear to be highly judicious.

I have been induced by various circumstances to view the movement of this force (not exceeding eighteen hundred men, (according to the best information obtained respecting it,) more as a relief to the American Militia embodied than as one brought forward for offensive operations at a season of the year so unpromising, and at the moment our squadron on Lake Ontario must have been expected to be in possession of the naval ascendency.

I deem this reinforcement as sent by the American Government for the purpose of enabling the enemy to retain Fort Erie as a set-off to Fort Niagara, a circumstance to be deprecated and not to be submitted to quietly.

The confidence with which you look to the exertions of the gallant remains of the Right Division is most cheering, and I boldly anticipate a brilliant termination to the present crisis.

Nothing shall be left undone to remove your alarm on the score of provisions. A few days will decide the extent of the aid the navy will afford for that most desirable purpose. In the meantime brigades of batteaux laden with flour will creep along the coast towards York. The possibility of obtaining conveyance for the 90th Regiment in the ships of war retains that corps a day or two longer at Kingston.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.
(No. 199.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, U. C.,
11th October, 1814.

'MY LORD,—I do myself the honor to report to Your Lordship that the day before that of my arrival at Kingston the enemy's squadron discontinued the blockade it had vigorously maintained for the last six weeks. The vigilance of the American cruisers on Lake Ontario was felt even by our batteaux creeping along the shore with provisions for the Right Division. In consequence I found the wants of that portion of the army had grown to an alarming extent, as Your Lordship will observe in the correspondence I have herewith the honor to transmit.

Commodore Sir James Yeo's large ship, the *St. Lawrence*, is not quite ready to take the lake, but it is expected she will be, on the 15th or 16th inst., when the squadron will proceed direct for Niagara with a small proportion of the supplies which are there so much required for the troops.

Reinforcements Sir James Yeo declines taking, from an apprehension of being brought to action by Commodore Chauncey, but as soon as he has ascertained that the American fleet is in Sackett's Harbor and in appearance laid up for the winter, Sir James Yeo will then be disposed to convey from hence an extensive supply of the articles most required on the Niagara Frontier, as well as to remove the sick and disabled from thence to Burlington and York, provided the weather does not suddenly change so as to render the navigation of the lake hazardous.

This serious consideration has induced me to order the 90th Regiment, (about 950 rank and file,) to proceed immediately to York, from whence I entertain hopes it may be conveyed to Niagara by the ships of war.

From the foregoing representation of the state of affairs in Upper Canada, Your Lordship will at once discover the impossibility of any enterprise for the destruction of Sackett's Harbor. The naval ascendency has been acquired at too late a period of the year to be otherwise useful than in relieving the wants of the troops on the Niagara Frontier and at York, and as the enemy have made Sackett's Harbor a place of considerable resistance against any force capable of being brought against it, the greatest exertions must be made during the winter in the dockyard for the construction of a sufficiency of gun and mortar boats and craft for the conveyance of a large body of troops. I have so arranged it with the Commodore.

Whilst the enemy continues to occupy Fort Erie, it would not

be prudent to attempt a naval establishment on Lake Erie, nor can any expansion of force take place when provisions continue to be so scarce in Upper Canada. The articles required for the equipment and armament of the *St. Lawrence* having had the precedence in their transport to all others, I do not find the quantity of provisions in store at this post sufficient for the supply of the two divisions of the army during the winter, and I have in consequence directed the transport to be exclusively devoted to that service, and the Canadians of Lower Canada to be called upon for the continuance of their zealous exertions for a few more weeks in batteaux, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season.

With a view of obtaining the naval ascendency on Lake Huron and of maintaining our intercourse uninterrupted with the Western Indians, it has been decided that preparations shall be made immediately for the establishment of a military post and naval dockyard on such part of the shore of Lake Huron in the neighborhood of Matchedash Bay as shall be found most favorable to the construction of vessels.

The only route practicable for the conveyance of the stores and other requisites for the armament, equipment and construction of vessels in that unfrequented country is from York to the shore of Lake Simcoe, and from thence across that sheet of water to the Matchedash River, descending it and passing through a wilderness for about forty miles until you come to Lake Huron.

No transport can be attempted until Lake Simcoe is sufficiently frozen over to admit of burthens upon it, but previous arrangements can be made for the establishment.

I have called Lieutenant-General Drummond's attention to this important object.

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS,
11th October, 1814.

No. 1. The whole of the militia of the surrounding country will be called out for the defence of the Chippawa, on which line Major De Watteville will make such a distribution of the Incorporated and Sedentary Militia, troop of the 19th Dragoons, and the Indian warriors, as he may consider advisable for effectually watching and guarding the banks of the Chippawa and Lyons' Creek.

2. The whole of the heavy baggage composing Major-General De Watteville's command is immediately to be sent to Fort George, where it will be placed in charge of a subaltern officer ordered on that duty from the corps which can best spare one. But it is the

Lieutenant-General's most positive command, and one for which he is determined to hold commanding officers of corps strictly responsible, that no effective soldier, (whether servant or batman), is sent with the baggage to the rear. The guard must wholly consist of convalescents or weakly men. As the efficiency of the army so materially depends upon the strict observance of this order, the Lieutenant-General is determined not to allow its violation. He is induced to be the more particular on this head from having observed the disgraceful number of serviceable men who were sent to the rear under various pretences during the last movement which the army made from Fort Erie. The wagons attached to the regiments are to be employed in removing the baggage, and every empty returning wagon belonging to the different departments is to be made use of for this purpose.

3. In the event of an action, drummers or band will alone be permitted to attend the wounded to the rear. Officers commanding corps will be responsible for the rigid observance of this order.

4. Three guns fired from the heights of Lundy's Lane, at the interval of one minute between each, will be the signal for the corps to assemble on their respective alarm posts, and to close up, without waiting for further orders, to the head of the column at Bridgewater. A six-pounder will be immediately detached from Chippawa to Lundy's Lane for the purpose of giving this signal, which is to be repeated at Queenston. With a view to keep the men of the different regiments as much collected as possible, the Lieutenant-General recommends frequent roll calls during the day.

5. The Deputy Quartermaster General will make arrangements for concentrating the troops in their cantonments, with their right resting on Bridgewater and their left at Lundy's Lane. Commissariat stores will be removed to Stamford. The sick will be removed from the hospital at Clarke's house.

J. Harvey,
Lieut.-Col., D. A. G.

Memo.—Captain Smith, 6th Foot, and Lieutenant Lowrey, 8th Regiment, have leave to proceed to York for the recovery of their wounds.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Lieutenant-Colonel The Marquess of Tweeddale.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS,
11th October, 1814.

MY LORD,—With reference to the instructions with which you have already been furnished, and the District General Order of this day, I am directed to desire that on the firing of an alarm signal you will march with the force under your command to Lundy's Lane, reporting your movement by a dragoon to Major-General Stovin, and sending forward a mounted officer to the headquarters of the Lieutenant-General commanding for further instructions, and leaving the flank companies of the 104th, or a detachment of fifty men with one gun, to occupy the post of Queenston until the arrival of the troops and gun which Major-General Stovin has been directed to detach to Queenston on receiving information of your movement.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Major General Stovin.

HEADQUARTERS, FALLS OF NIAGARA,
11th October, 1814.

SIR,—With reference to the instructions with which you have been verbally furnished, I am directed by Lieutenant-General Drummond to desire that you will detach the troops named in the margin, or such portion of them as you may deem prudent, to Queenston as soon as possible after the firing of the alarm signal from that post and Lundy's Lane.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Tweeddale has orders to march at the same time to Lundy's Lane, leaving the flank companies of the 104th, or a detachment of 50 men, to occupy Queenston until the arrival of the troops detached from Fort George. The Lieutenant-General leaves it to you to nominate an officer to command the detachment above ordered, but directs me to observe that Lieutenant-Colonel Warburton, 41st Regiment, appears to him to be an officer well calculated for it, as well as being a disposable field officer. The Lieutenant-General also leaves it to your discretion to proceed yourself to assume command of the troops detached or to remain at the forts. In deciding this point you will, of course, be influenced and determined by the indications or movements of the enemy in your neighborhood. The same discretionary permission is given to you in respect to joining the more advanced position of your command, under the Marquess of Tweeddale. If you leave the forts, the next senior officer, Colonel Tucker, as well as the

officers respectively commanding at the different forts, must receive the most positive orders for the utmost vigilance and precaution being used to prevent surprise, and for their defence to the utmost extremity in case of being attacked.

The troops detached from the forts are not to advance beyond Queenston, nor those from Queenston beyond Lundy's Lane, without orders to that effect, but their arrival at those places is to be reported to headquarters by a mounted officer, who will receive the Lieutenant-General's orders for their guidance.

(Troops Named in Margin.)

	Completed to Rank and File.
Light Company 8th	50
Flank Companies 41st	100
Two Battalion Companies 41st	100
do De Watteville's	200
	450

One six-pounder.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

District Headquarters,
Niagara Falls, 11th October, 1814.

Sir,—Referring to my letter of the 10th, I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that I have received a report of General Izard's division, (which had for the last two days been encamped at Black Rock,) having crossed to the Canada shore. I therefore hourly expect to hear of the approach of the enemy's united force towards the Chippawa. Of the defences, which are constructing at the mouth of that creek, as well as of the whole of the position which the troops will have to defend, the accompanying sketch may give Your Excellency some idea. I regret to state, however, that those defences are by no means yet complete, tho' they would to-morrow evening, (if the enemy gives us until that time,) be in a state capable of making a very tolerable resistance. By that time the platform in the *tete de pont* would be laid and the *abbattis* round that work and the picketting round the redoubt at Weishuhn's completed, and four iron twelve-pounders mounted.

By the enclosed copy of a District General Order, Your Excellency will be informed of the arrangement for collecting the troops. One of the principal advantages of their position behind the Chippawa is that it enables me to suffer them to remain undisturbed in their cantonments until the very moment when they may

be required to act. As soon as the enemy moves it is my intention to bring up the troops from Queenston under the Marquess of Tweeddale, and probably the detachment from the garrison of the forts, which Major-General Stovin has been ordered to hold in readiness, in the instructions of which a copy is enclosed. With the force amounting to about *ach ash f m t h w y p n o a o b g x c y z*, I should be strongly induced to risque an attack on double their numbers should the enemy, by dividing his force, afford me a favorable opportunity. The aggregate force of the enemy I cannot estimate lower than eight thousand—deserters state it as high as ten thousand. They say that a vast number of boats are to be employed in the expedition, and that twelve pieces of artillery are already embarked. The impressions which these vast preparations and force of the enemy, together with our great numerical inferiority and the non-arrival of reinforcements to this division, have produced on the minds of the inhabitants of this frontier has been such as to induce them very generally to abandon their homes and property. I have been endeavoring to induce the militia to come forward, but under actual circumstances I can scarcely expect my call to be complied with to any great extent. Nor have the Indians, who had returned to the Head of the Lake on the troops going into cantonments, yet come forward again.

I have said enough to show Your Excellency the difficulties of my situation, which the squadron, unless it bring me a strong reinforcement of troops, will by no means relieve. I have, however, ceased to reckon upon any relief depending on the squadron. The troops which may arrive in it may indeed serve to repair my losses, but they cannot now possibly arrive in time to take any share in the contest which I fear this gallant little division will shortly have to maintain against *i g p z w p* its numbers. While I feel confident that its gallantry and efforts will be such as to call forth the applause of its King and country and every impartial military man, (whatever may be the result,) I cannot but deeply lament that any circumstances should have placed this portion of the British army in a situation such as I have described.

Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Sir George Prevost.

(No. 83.)

DOWNING STREET, 5th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have received your despatches, Nos. 189 and 190, the former enclosing the account given by Lieutenant-General Drummond of his late unsuccessful attack upon Fort Erie.

The loss, both of officers and men, has been very severe. It is rendered more so by the distinguished character which some of the officers enjoyed.

His Majesty's service in Canada has been essentially promoted and the glory of his arms upheld by the energy and spirit of enterprise which Lieutenant-General Drummond has constantly displayed, but enterprise must always be subject to disappointment, against which a judicious officer may often, but cannot always, provide. The failure of Lieutenant-General Drummond in this instance is, however, to be attributed to an accident which might have happened in the most wary operation and ought not to expose him to the slightest reproach. You will therefore, I am sure, have great pleasure in communicating to him the Prince Regent's approbation of his conduct.

The Duke of York to Sir George Prevost.

HORSE GUARDS, 15th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 4th ulto., in which you detail the circumstances of the attack made by the troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Drummond upon the enemy's position at Fort Erie.

I must lament that the bravery and discipline evinced by the troops upon this service, and the judicious measures adopted by the Lieutenant-General for the guidance of them, should have been rendered abortive by an accident so unforeseen and unfortunate as the explosion of the enemy's reserve ammunition, and which appears to have alone caused the failure of an enterprise that deserved success.

I lament the loss sustained by the troops upon this unfortunate occasion, particularly the lives of so many valuable officers.

Success in war is seldom attainable where the spirit of enterprise is wanting, and I am of opinion that this quality should ever be cherished where it is observed to be tempered in an officer by prudence and guided by able arrangements. Viewing the measures adopted by Lieutenant-General Drummond in this light, I have great satisfaction in acquainting you that his conduct in the enterprise against Fort Erie has met the full approbation of the Prince Regent.

It is with much concern I observe the little hope you entertain of being enabled to apply the force now placed under your orders to any operation of magnitude during the present season. I give you full credit for the firmness with which you would resist the

effect upon your judgment of "vain and ignorant clamour," but considering the extent and composition of the army under your command, I am apprehensive that the hopes and expectations of the government and the country would be much disappointed in the non-attainment of signal success against the enemy opposed to you, and this disappointment would be aggravated if the occasional ascendency on the lakes, so likely to be acquired by the more immediate means and local resources of the enemy, should paralyze the exertions of an army so infinitely his superior. I cannot, however, fail to anticipate the utmost effort of your well-known zeal towards the accomplishment of whatever local circumstances may render practicable.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, FALLS OF NIAGARA,
15th October, 1814, Midnight.

SIR,—On the evening of the 13th the enemy advanced to Black Creek, and, having effected the passage of that creek during the night, continued his advance as far as Street's Grove on the following morning, the Glengarry Light Infantry retiring before him in the most perfect order and with the utmost regularity. A line of picquets was taken up a short distance in front of the *tete de pont* and occupied until this morning, when they were obliged to retire into the works before the whole of the enemy's army, which advanced to make a reconnoissance, supported by the fire of a considerable number of heavy guns. The firing continued on his part the whole day, during which he continued to display his columns, but did not venture to make an attack. I think it probable that he might have been deterred from this by the occasional fire of the guns, which are already mounted on this position and on the *tete de pont*. At sunset he ceased his annoyance, and retired to his camp (at Street's Grove.) The casualties of the troops under my command have been very few. Returns have not yet been collected. Several of the guns were struck, in consequence of the unfinished state of the batteries. The troops are full of ardor, and I have only most deeply to lament that I have not a sufficient number of them to admit of my freely indulging that feeling by leading them to the attack of the enemy. I am persuaded that if I possessed the means of availing myself the present crisis, the movement which has been made by the enemy on this frontier affords a most favorable opportunity, and here I cannot refrain from observing that if I had the 90th and one other strong regiment, (which can so well be spared,) I am fully of the opinion that

I would now have it in my power to strike a blow which would not only give immediate tranquillity to the province, but go far towards finishing the war in Upper Canada. As it is, I cannot feel either sanguine or comfortable. Your Excellency's communication of the 11th (just received) effectually banishes all such feelings. Should the 90th Regiment (or any strong regiment) and the requisite supply of provisions and stores not come up in the squadron, and should any disaster happen to this division, (in consequence,) and, above all, should Commodore Chauncey, (as is probable,) decline an action, His Majesty's naval commander will, in my opinion, have much to answer for.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEFT DIVISION,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, CAMP FORT ERIE,
Oct. 13, 1814.

(Division Orders.)

Pursuant to the General Order of last evening, the left division will be immediately prepared to take up the line of march. The 1st and 2nd Brigades will form the right or heavy, following the road along the margin of the river. The 1st and 4th Rifle Regiments, together with Major-General Porter's command, will constitute the left or light column. This body will proceed through the fields from 350 to 500 yards distant from that of the right and parallel to it. Flankers will be thrown out from the left flank of alternate sections, and will dress by them respectively.

Baggage, provisions, &c., will follow in the rear. Major Hogan, Deputy Quartermaster-General, is charged with the good order of its progress. He will see that it proceeds in order, corresponding with several battalions of the different brigades and corps, and fully to effect this, regimental quartermasters are directed to be particularly attentive.

The two brigades will alternately furnish a rear guard, consisting of 1 captain, 1 sub, and 60 privates. The greatest attention to discipline, *correct marching*, and military appearance in general will be observed by *every* officer and exacted from every soldier, and this especially is looked for in the order of encampment as well as on the line of march. Soldiers must not be permitted to leave the ranks. The adjutant and inspector-generals will keep with the columns and will look to all their several important duties.

By command of M. G. Brown,

R. JONES,
Asst. Adj.-Gen. Left Division.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN ARMY,
CAMP NEAR STREET'S CREEK, October 16th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 8th instant I marched from Lewiston to Schlosser, intending to embark at or near that landing with my troops and cross the strait to a point south of Chippawa, where I was to be met by Major-General Brown's division. On arriving at Cayuga Creek, where the boats had been concealed, I found that they would not contain above one-fourth of my force, and to cross in the face of the enemy's batteries and entrenchments at Chippawa by small detachments would have been madness. I therefore encamped for the night, and the next morning, having lightened my wagons by putting part of their load in the boats, we proceeded towards Black Rock. Some delay occurred at Tonewanto Creek, a bold and deep stream, the bridge over which was destroyed some months ago. On the 10th and 11th my army crossed the strait and encamped about two miles north of Fort Erie.

I found at that post, (besides the remains of Brown's division and the New York Volunteers under General Porter,) the 17th Regiment of Infantry, which had arrived a few days before from the westward. The latter I attached to the first brigade of my division. Having ordered the works to be completed, and leaving a garrison competent to their protection from insult under present circumstances, which I entrusted to Major Hindman of the artillery as commandant, I marched on the morning of the 13th with this army, consisting of the first division, three thousand five hundred strong, under my immediate command, and the second division, under Major-General Brown, two thousand regulars and eight hundred militia volunteers.

At Black Creek we halted that night. A small party of the enemy's light troops and dragoons were on the opposite side of the creek observing us; they had destroyed the bridges and houses, and driven away the inhabitants. The forage they had endeavored to burn, but were in too much haste to do so effectually. I cause all that we have occasion to take to be paid for, and spare no pains to protect the wretched people from being plundered. Some excesses, I regret to state, have been committed by the irregulars and riflemen, but they are remedied as much as possible, and if repeated (after the orders I have given on the subject) shall not go unpunished.

The construction of bridges over the numerous little streams we met delayed our progress on the 14th. We encamped that night at this place, little more than two miles from the enemy's entrench-

ments on the Chippawa. Yesterday morning, having completed a bridge over Street's Creek for the passage of the field-pieces, I occupied with my division, forming the first line of the army, the ground in front of the enemy's works; my right on the strait, my left in the woods skirting the Chippawa River, and a body of riflemen in advance covering the left flank on Lyon's Creek, which falls into the Chippawa about a mile and-a-half above its mouth.

Both streams are deep and without a ford for many miles. At their junction the enemy has erected a strong redoubt.

For the purpose of drawing the fire from his batteries, in order to choose the situation of our batteries, I ordered a field-piece forward into the road, from which some shot were discharged with effect at the prominent buildings within their fortifications, but they did not think proper to answer us. Some confusion was observed on their side; loaded wagons were going and soldiers retreating by the Lake Road. Some of my officers were induced to believe they were evacuating the post, and Major-General Brown was of this opinion. To ascertain the fact, which seemed to me incredible in the apparent state of their works, I ordered the whole of my little train, (consisting of Towson's and Austin's companies, the former three six-pounders and one $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch. howitzer, the latter two eighteen-pounders,) to advance and fire on their batteries. Nothing could be more gallant than the proceedings of this little band. They advanced through the open ground in full view of the enemy's batteries of twenty-four and twelve-pounders, formed the line without any cover whatever, and commenced a cool and correct cannonade, which was immediately answered by their adversaries. The vast superiority of our artillerists was discernible to the most inexperienced eye. Every shot told. One of their batteries was silenced. The intended effect was produced, and it was plain that so far from abandoning their forts the British were in strength, and superior in weight of metal and number of guns. The firing continued until dusk, when I directed our pieces to be withdrawn for the night.

Two deserters, who came over this morning, state that considerable execution was done in the battery they were posted in, on the hither side of the creek. On our side we lost but four men killed—none wounded, except Major S. Lush, Army Judge Advocate, who volunteered his services as one of my staff, and who unfortunately was in a group with a number of other young officers, which attracted the notice of the enemy. His horse was shot under him by a twenty-four pound ball, and himself severely hurt. I am happy to add that the surgeons pronounce the wound not mortal.

This morning I have directed Lyon's Creek, on the right of the army's position, to be closely reconnoitred.

I have just learned by express from Sackett's Harbor that Commodore Chauncey, with the whole of his fleet, has retired into port, and is throwing up batteries for its protection. This defeats all the objects of the operations by land in this quarter. I may turn Chippawa, and should General Drummond not retire, may succeed in giving him a great deal of trouble, but if he falls back on Fort George or Burlington Heights every step I take in pursuit exposes me to be cut off by the large reinforcements it is in the power of the enemy to throw in twenty-four hours upon my flank or rear.

All the artillery and all the ordnance stores are inadequate to the siege of one of the enemy's fortresses. Three-fourths of the arms of the troops from the westward are unfit for service. The severe season is approaching. A fact which I was not aware of before I witnessed it from Lewiston Heights is that the communication by water from York to the mouth of the Niagara was uninterrupted, notwithstanding our supremacy at that time on Lake Ontario. I saw a large square rigged vessel arriving and another, a brig, lying close to the Canada shore. Not a vessel of ours was in sight.

I confess, sir, I am greatly embarrassed. At the head of the most efficient army the United States have possessed during this war, much must be expected from me, and yet I can discern no object which can be achieved at this point worthy of the risk which will attend its attempt. The relief of Major General Brown's force is completely effected. I have presented the army under my command in the open field and under the enemy's intrenchment for battle, which he prudently declines. The opinions of all the principal officers whom I have spoken with on the subject are against attempts which can result in no national advantage, and which, even if successful, would be attended by the unavoidable loss of many men now more valuable than ever. Under these circumstances, should no opening present in a few days to obtain an immediate advantage over the enemy, I shall feel it my duty to commence immediate preparations for the distribution of the troops in winter quarters at such places as will enable them to assemble with celerity round any menaced point.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 18th October, 1814.

SIR,—During the whole of the 16th the enemy continued to display columns of infantry in front of our position in front of the Chippawa without, however, venturing within range of our guns or offering us any annoyance with his. About one o'clock on the 17th his troops disappeared. Our picquets were immediately thrown out and a reconnoissance of cavalry and infantry pushed in different directions, and it was found that the enemy had retired from his camp at Street's Grove and was moving in the direction of Black Creek, at which place he halted and encamped, our picquets being pushed close to his during the night. The cause of this sudden retrograde movement of the enemy I have not yet ascertained. Spies and deserters say it was owing to finding our position at the mouth of the Chippawa so much stronger than they expected, added to the intelligence they had received of the approach of our fleet, which did make its appearance this morning. The wind not having been favorable, it might have been discovered off the Genesee some days ago and reported to General Brown, and thereby account for the *precipitation* with which it has been marked, such as provisions left on the ground, some camp equipage burnt, (for which I consider they had not carriage,) and two boats, which had been sent over to Schlosser for fresh provisions the same morning, having returned to Street's Grove without knowing that the American army had left it. One of these boats was taken by our picquet, and contained fresh meat, bread, and spirits, for at least a brigade.

That the enemy has not quitted his position in our immediate front with any intention of retracing his steps to Fort Erie or his own shores without some further attempt to penetrate further into the province, is sufficiently apparent from the events of this day, (18th.) Early this forenoon information was brought me that a large body of the enemy was moving up Black Creek in the direction of Cook's Mills on Lyon's Creek. The Glengarry Light Infantry and seven companies of the 82nd Regiment were immediately moved in that direction, and in consequence of a report which I have just received of the enemy having passed Lyon's Creek at Cook's Mills in force, the troops above mentioned have been reinforced by the remaining three companies of the 82nd Regiment, the 100th Regiment and a gun. With this force I have directed Colonel Myers to feel the enemy closely, and I shall cause him to be attacked if not too strong. Orders have been sent for the destruction of *Brown's Bridge*, (on the Chippawa,) and as the

enemy cannot, (I think,) possibly bring his guns, I hope and believe, he will be found to have committed himself by this movement, unless he retires in the course of the night. If the report which I have received of his moving only one brigade (not exceeding 2,000 men) to Cook's Mills be confirmed during the night, I shall add the 6th Regiment to the troops above enumerated and attack this brigade at daylight, leaving Major-General De Watteville to maintain the position against the remainder of the enemy's force, (of about 6,000,) which he will have no difficulty, in my opinion, in doing. In all events, I shall endeavor to give Your Excellency a further report to-morrow.

A report from Fort George of the fleet (five sail) being in sight reached me at noon to-day; as I have received no further report I conclude they have not yet communicated with the forts. Colonel Harvey has written by my directions to Sir James Yeo, proposing to him to spare me some of his marines in addition to the troops whom he may have brought up. Though I have no idea of his acquiescence in such a proposal, I have nevertheless thought it right to make it. I have already told Your Excellency that the squadron unless it brings me a strong reinforcement of troops will by no means relieve the difficulties of my situation.

I therefore enclose a copy of my arrangement for meeting the attack of the enemy in the position of the Chippawa.

P. S.—I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's cypher communication of the 13th.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Lieutenant-Colonel Myers.

18TH OCTOBER, 1814, 9 p. m.

MY DEAR MYERS,—On receipt of your message by Lieutenant-Colonel Hagerman, the demi-brigade (100th and 89th Regiments and 104th flank companies) were ordered across to Weishuhn's with a six-pounder. Major Sparrow conducts them. Of these troops the 89th and 104th are directed to remain in the post, and the 100th and three companies of the 82d and the gun to move on to your reinforcement and support. With the force you will then have at your disposal the General thinks you will be able to feel them closely, so as accurately to ascertain their strength and the direction of their movement; both points of infinite importance for us to have accurate information upon in order to regulate the force it may be necessary to detach to meet the enemy on the left bank of the Chippawa, should he dare to attempt to penetrate in the direction of "Burlington by the Beaver Dams." I need not

remind you that any error we may commit in our calculations on this point may be one of the very first consequence to the safety of this division.

General Drummond requests that you will act with caution, by not attacking a very superior force with a vastly inferior one, but if you discover that the enemy is endeavoring to establish himself at Cook's Mills and awaiting the arrival of reinforcements, give us information by the quickest possible route, in order that a sufficient force may be detached to attack with the certainty of destroying that of the enemy.

The gun, as the enemy cannot possibly have any, will be a *host*, but it is not to move from Weishuhn's without your special orders. Colonel Robertson had been detached to Brown's Bridge with his militia, sending forward an officer to see the bridge destroyed. We shall, of course, be anxious for constant reports. General Stovin is ordered up with the 90th detachment, and the marines if Sir James will spare them.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

(No. 200.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, U. C.,
18th October, 1814.

MY LORD,—The American Government having availed itself of the naval ascendency it possessed on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to bring from Sackett's Harbor and Detroit on board its vessels considerable reinforcements and extensive supplies to Major-General Brown's army, occupying Buffalo and Fort Erie, Lieutenant-General Drummond's situation, with scanty resources for the support of a force reduced by sickness and contests, was daily becoming more critical.

The state of the roads from hence to York being represented as impracticable for the movement of any considerable number of men or any adequate quantity of provisions, I had nothing to hope for the Lieutenant-General's relief but from an exertion of Sir James Yeo.

On the 12th inst. a reconnoissance, pushed into the neighborhood of Sackett's Harbor, returned with intelligence that Commodore Chauncey's ships were anchored under the batteries, a disposition on his part to await there the result of the superiority we had just obtained, and in the event of an attack to co-operate in the defence of the place.

In consequence, Sir James Yeo, with difficulty, consented to

receive on board his vessels a wing of the 90th Regiment, in addition to a small proportion of ordnance stores and provisions, and sailed from hence for Niagara on the 14th inst., leaving with me the assurance that he would return as soon as possible with as many of the sick and disabled of the right division as were in a situation to be removed, and convey another and much more ample supply of provisions, stores, and men, previous to the closing of navigation.

I have contemplated the measures of the administration at Washington as originating in a precaution against the effects to be produced by the naval ascendency we were expected to acquire on Lake Ontario at an earlier period of the year than has been the case. That the American General, prompted by confidence in their numerical superiority and aware of my inability to reinforce the right division until our squadron should take the lake, may be induced to attack Lieutenant-General Drummond at this moment, is in the the opinion of that officer probable, and he has made his dispositions accordingly, with confidence that his troops will in the result deserve the applause of their king and country.

Lieut.-Colonel Christopher Myers, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond.

MISENER'S HOUSE, ON LYON'S CREEK,
October 19, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that I proceeded this morning to reconnoitre the position of the enemy at Cook's Mills, distant from hence three miles, where he was understood to be in force.

I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, with the Glengarry Regiment of light infantry, to move in front and on the flanks; Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquess of Tweeddale with the 100th, flank companies of the 104th, and those of the 82nd, with a six-pounder and the rockets, in support, and Major Proctor with the remainder of the 82nd Regiment to move in reserve, the whole about seven hundred and fifty men.

I found the enemy's advance with a strong support posted on the right bank of a ravine, which runs to Lyon's Creek, a small distance from the Mills. A part of the Glengarry Regiment turned round a small wood which covered the front of the enemy and crossed the head of the ravine, whilst the remainder passed through the wood. By this movement the enemy's light troops were driven back in admirable style, whilst a part of his force crossed Lyon's

Creek for the purpose of annoying our left. Having chiefly the reconnoissance in view, and finding that object not attainable by a forward movement from the thickness of the woods, I retired the Glengarry Regiment and fell back a small distance, in the hope of drawing the the enemy forth to the open ground, and, if circumstances would justify it, to bring him to a more general action. This had no farther the desired effect than that he advanced to the skirts of the wood, and showed two columns on our left and one on our right, opening a heavy fire of small arms and which from the distance we sparingly returned, but from the fire of the six-pounder and the rockets the enemy's column on our left suffered severely. From my own observation and the reports I have received, I cannot estimate the force of the enemy at less than from 1,500 to 2,000 men. He had no cannon. Finding it impossible to draw him fairly from the woods, I retired the troops to their cantonments around this place, keeping my advance close to that of the enemy.

The conduct of the Glengarry Light Infantry during this campaign has been so conspicuous that Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby and the officers and men of that corps can receive little further from any report of mine, but on this occasion I cannot refrain from adding my humble tribute of praise to their well-earned fame.

To Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquess of Tweeddale and the corps under his immediate orders, and to Major Proctor and the 82nd Regiment, my best acknowledgments are due. The steadiness and conduct of those troops merit my highest commendation.

The service of the six-pounder and rockets was most judiciously directed by Lieutenant Carter of the Royal Artillery.

I beg also to state the able assistance I received from Major Sparrow, Assistant-Adjutant-General, and from Captain Powell Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, who were attached in the first instance to Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, and I am happy of this opportunity to acknowledge the zealous and meritorious conduct of this officer in his department since the opening of the campaign. To Major Glegg, who was sent forward for a report, I am much indebted during the time he remained with me.

I transmit a return of casualties, which I regret should be so great, and I am much concerned to find that that valuable officer, Captain McMillan of the Glengarry Regiment, is amongst the wounded. The loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, but I have every reason to believe it severe, his columns being under the fire of the six-pounder and the rockets.

Morning District-General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,
NIAGARA FALLS, 20th October, 1814.

Lieutenant-General Drummond having received the report of Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster-General, who directed the reconnoissance made on the enemy's force at Cook's Mills yesterday morning, hastens to express to the troops engaged on that occasion his thanks for their very gallant conduct. Lieutenant-General Drummond is particularly obliged to Colonel Myers for the judgment and ability with which he executed his instructions and effected every object of the movement. The Colonel speaks in terms of admiration of the fine style in which that excellent corps, the Glengarry Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, drove back the enemy's light troops, and of the steadiness and firmness displayed by the 82nd Regiment under Major Proctor, and the 100th Regiment and 104th flank companies under Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquess of Tweeddale, in presence of and under the fire of very superior columns of the enemy.

The service of the six-pounder and rockets were very judiciously directed by Lieutenant Carter of the Royal Artillery.

Not having been able to induce the enemy to leave the woods in which he was posted and venture out into the open ground, the troops were retired to their cantonments in the most perfect order, the advance remaining close to the enemy.

The loss of the enemy in this affair must have been very severe, his columns having at several periods been exposed to the fire of the gun and rockets. Ours has been one man killed and thirty-five wounded, all slightly. Lieutenant-General Drummond regrets that that excellent officer, Captain McMillan of the Glengarry Light Infantry, has received a wound. He is the only officer wounded.

Colonel Myers reports the able assistance which he received from Major Sparrow, Assistant-Adjutant-General, and from Captain Powell, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, and takes this opportunity of acknowledging the zealous and meritorious conduct of the latter officer in his department since the commencement of the campaign. He also expresses himself much indebted to Major Glegg, Assistant-Adjutant-General, who was sent forward by the Lieutenant-General for a report, and joined him just before the action.

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col. D. A. G.

Sir James Yeo to Sir Gordon Drummond.

His Majesty's Ship *St. Lawrence*,
Off Niagara, 19th October, 1814.

(Extract.)

I am concerned General Drummond should make a request I cannot comply with without exposing the honor of the flag, the interest of the country, and my own reputation, to most eminent danger. The enemy's fleet may very possibly engage the squadron under my command, and the marines compose the most efficient part of their crews. Under these circumstances it is impossible I can comply with his request.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Pevost.

District Headquarters,
Niagara Falls, 20th October, 1814.

Sir,—Early yesterday morning the 6th Regiment was passed over to Weishuhn's, to which point I myself proceeded, for the purpose of being ready to move to the attack of the enemy's force at Cook's Mills should the result of the reconnoissance, which I directed Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster-General, to make, appear to me to render such a movement advisable. The instructions with which Colonel Myers was furnished are contained in the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to him by the Deputy-Adjutant-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, by my direction, and which had been executed by Colonel Myers and the detachment placed under his command entirely to my satisfaction. The particulars of the affair Your Excellency will find detailed in Colonel Myers' report, and I have only to add that the judgment and ability displayed by Colonel Myers in the execution of my instructions entitle him to my best acknowledgments. His report of the gallantry and good conduct of the troops, though highly gratifying, is nothing more than might be expected. I have never known them to act otherwise. I enclose a copy of the order which I have issued on the occasion.

It appears that the force which had penetrated through almost impassable roads to Cook's Mills consisted of one brigade, viz: the 5th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Regiments of General Izard's army, under Brigadier-General Bissell. A reinforcement of two regiments joined them this morning from General Brown's army. Feeling the difficulties of his situation, however, and the impossibility of moving even the common waggons of the country, much less guns, through such roads, and finding a powerful force in his front not only ready to meet him but anxious to entice him into the open

ground, the Commanding General of the American army has wisely thought proper to withdraw this force, which accordingly retreated from Cook's Mills at two o'clock this afternoon, without even destroying the mills, though he certainly might have done so on public grounds. I must, however, do him the justice to acknowledge that as far as I have observed he has been studiously cautious in abstaining from his burning and plundering system, probably admonished by the retaliation inflicted at Washington and on the coast.

It is impossible for me to say what this army may next attempt, but his failure in his endeavour to turn my right, and the great improvement I have been able to make by increasing exertions in the defences at the *Tete de pont* and Weishuhn's, leave me far less anxious on the subject of being able successfully to repel all the enemy's attempts on this frontier than I was on his first approach, at which period I had little or nothing to aid the gallantry of the troops. The *Tete de pont* is now a very complete and defensible work. The redoubt at Weishuhn's is also in a respectable state, and the guns are so disposed and covered along the left bank of the Chippawa between these two posts as to render the whole position very strong, and consequently to leave the greatest part of my force disposable to oppose the enemy, should he succeed in turning my right.

In consequence of a succession of adverse and violent winds, no communication has yet been had with the squadron, although they have been off the Niagara these three days. General Stovin reports that they were expected to get in this evening.

The disappointment I experienced at finding that half the 90th Regiment had been left to struggle through the dreadful roads betwixt Kingston and York, at such a season and at such a crisis, was greater than I can express.

I have now distinctly and earnestly to recommend to Your Excellency to send up to this frontier two effective regiments in addition to the 90th, one of them to go to Burlington, where their active services will be required, and the other to Fort George to relieve and enable me to send down to the Lower Province the following regiments, viz: the Royals, King's, 41st, 89th, 100th, 103rd and De Watteville's, (seven,) and which cannot move from hence until the arrival of those destined to replace them. I shall communicate with Sir James Yeo on this subject, and urge him to apply his ships to the only service which they can render us during the remainder of this season.

P. S.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 15th.

After Evening District-General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,
NIAGARA FALLS, 22nd October, 1814.

The troops in the field will be brigaded as follows during the short service on which the Lieutenant-General proposes to employ them:

1st Brigade, Major-General Stovin:

1st Battalion Royal Scots.
90th Regiment.
97th do
Flank companies 41st and De Watteville's.
2—24-prs. brass field-pieces.
1—6 do do

2nd Brigade, Major-General De Watteville:

6th Regiment.
82nd do
89th and 100th.
Glengarry Light Infantry, Incorporated and Sedentary Militia.
2—6-prs.
1—5½ inch howitzer.

The division will move to its left. The 2nd Brigade will be formed at Street's, and the 1st at Chippawa, as soon as possible after daylight to-morrow morning. The Major-Generals reporting as soon as their brigades are collected.

Three batteaux manned by the Sedentary Militia will accompany each brigade.

The detachment of the rocket company under Lieutenant Stevens will move with the 2nd Brigade.

The cavalry with the advance.

An officer of the Engineer Department with a proportion of artificers and tools will accompany the division.

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS,
NIAGARA FALLS, 23d October, 1814.

SIR,—The two regiments stated in my last to have been detached to augment the enemy's force at Cook's Mills on the morning of the 20th, it appears, were moved solely for the purpose of covering its retreat. On the morning of the 21st, the enemy again showed some troops in front of our position at Chippawa.

Relieved, however, from all apprehension for the security of my right, I had no fears as to anything he could effect in front; in fact after a short display, (the object of which I suspected at the time and which will be hereafter explained,) his columns were withdrawn, and nothing but his picquets remained in sight. Anxious to have an interview with Commodore Sir James Yeo, I took the opportunity of riding down to Niagara and went on board the squadron. On my return here yesterday I found the enemy's picquets had disappeared. Immediate arrangements were made for moving the whole division, (augmented by four companies of the 90th Regiment,) to harass or attack the enemy in his retreat, should the reconnoissance which I prepared to make, or the information which I expected to receive, appear to justify such a movement. The troops were ordered to cook, and were brigaded as stated in the enclosed order.

I moved on at daylight this morning with the cavalry and light troops, and having ascertained that the enemy had not a man on this side the heights opposite Black Rock, on which ground his advance was posted. I ordered the troops to return to their cantonments, the weather being inconveniently severe and not being in possession of any information relative to the situation of the enemy's main body, his intentions or numbers, (remaining on this shore,) sufficiently positive to warrant my committing the troops by a forward movement. It is evident that he has abandoned all idea of offensive operations against this frontier, and I doubt not by to-morrow morning receiving positive accounts of his having crossed the whole of his force, (except perhaps five or six hundred men left in Fort Erie,) to his own shore. I am sorry it has not been in my power to inflict some punishment on him at the moment of his departure, (as an additional memento.) I feel, however, that it would be imprudent, without good information, to attempt it, and I also feel perfectly convinced that sufficient has been done by this gallant division during this campaign effectually to deter the enemy from ever again attempting the invasion of this frontier. It has been practically demonstrated that the Chippawa is not only a defensible position but an exceedingly strong one, as it was always heretofore understood and believed to be, and, strengthened as it now is from its mouth to Weishuhn's, I have no doubt in giving my opinion that 1,500 men with a few disposable field guns would maintain it against any numbers which the enemy could bring. Your Excellency's apprehensions for the right of this position have arisen from the omission in the sketch of the word "impassable" for everything but infantry, by which all the roads leading in that direction should have been characterized.

The squadron sailed last night, having on board the remains of the 1st Battn. King's Regiment and the flank companies 104th. I have furnished Sir James Yeo with a memorandum with reference to my last communication to Your Excellency, proposing to him to bring up any two regiments Your Excellency might think proper to send for the relief of the worn out regiments of this division, which, or as many as possible, I propose to send down by the squadron. Those I am most anxious to get down are the 100th, 103d, Royals, De Watteville's, and 41st. The 89th and Glengarry Light Infantry I propose sending over to York with the Incorporated Militia.

There is so much disease in the 103d and that corps is in every other respect so useless and inefficient, there is so much occasion for an efficient regiment in the neighbourhood of Burlington, that I am particularly desirous this object should be effected. I should propose, however, to place the greatest part of the corps at Turkey Point, in a strong work I recommended to be constructed, and where, for various reasons, I should strongly advise the formation of the proposed naval establishment, instead of on the shore of Lake Huron. In fact, my own impression is that the obstacles in the way of this establishment at the latter place would be found to be insurmountable. I shall, however, write more fully on this subject. Captain Payne is arrived, but as I considered it absolutely necessary that a naval officer as well as a builder should accompany him in his survey I shall detain him here until the return of the squadron. I have already had some conversation with Sir James Yeo on the subject.

As I consider my presence on this frontier no longer absolutely required, it is my intention to return on the squadron to Kingston, leaving Major-General Stovin in this command, the arrangement of which shall be transmitted to Your Excellency, (with reference to the late General Order,) as soon as I have leisure to make them. Major-General De Watteville's family having arrived in this country, I would propose to Your Excellency that Major-General Robinson should proceed to this frontier, (where, moreover, he will find the greatest part of Major-General Kempt's brigade assembled,) to assist Major-General Stovin in the duties of this most important command, Major-General De Watteville relieving him in the command of the centre division at Kingston.

With reference to the arrangement of the departmental staff for Upper Canada contained in the General Order of the 15th inst., I must beg leave to recommend the Deputy-Adjutant-General be allowed a subaltern officer as a temporary deputy-assistant to him in succession to Lieutenant Moorsom, or a confidential clerk with

an adequate salary. I have had constant opportunities of witnessing the necessity of Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey being allowed some assistance of this nature in the various important duties he has to perform.

Referring to a passage in Your Excellency's letter of the 17th, received yesterday, I have the honor to enclose an extract of a letter addressed by Commodore Sir James Yeo to the Deputy-Adjutant-General in answer to an application which I had directed Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to make to him for the aid of a body of marines.

P. S.—The Western Indians are without necessaries; their goods are now lying in store at Kingston. It is very desirable they should be forwarded by the squadron.

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,
NIAGARA FALLS, 24th October, 1814.

No. 1. The following movement of troops will take place immediately:

The 89th Regiment to Queenston.

100th Regiment to Fort Missassauga.

Flank companies 41st and De Watteville's to join their regiments.

Incorporated Militia to Butler's Barracks at Fort George.

No. 2. The following will be the probable arrangement of the corps in winter quarters:

6th Regiment—Chippawa.
82nd " —Burlington.
90th " —Queenston.
97th " —Lundy's Lane.
Royals, 41st and De Watteville's, } Forts and Butler's Barracks.

The 89th, Glengarry Light Infantry, and Incorporated Militia —York.

103d—Burlington until relieved.

No. 3. The King's, 100th, and 103d Regiments—Lower Canada, as also the Royals, 41st and De Watteville's, in the event of a sufficient number of troops arriving from below to relieve these corps, which will proceed in the order in which they are named.

No. 4. The troops composing the Right Division will be divided,

conformably to the General Order of the 15th inst., into two brigades, of which those immediately on the frontier will compose one, and the troops at York and the regiment at Burlington the other.

No. 5. Major-General De Watteville will command the frontier brigade, and Colonel McNair, of the 90th, the senior Colonel with the division, that at York.

No. 6. The following staff officers are attached to the divisional and brigade staff of the Right Division :

The Major-General, commanding the division.

Major Sparrow, Assistant-Adjutant-General.

Major Cockburn, Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

To the frontier brigade :

Major D'Alton, Brigade Major.

Captain Chambers, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

To the brigade of which the headquarters are at York :

Major Holland, Brigade Major.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maule, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

Major Holland will not proceed to his station until he is directed by the Major-General commanding the division to do so.

No. 7. In parting with the 1st Battalion, King's Regiment, Lieutenant-General Drummond desires Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvie, the officers and soldiers of that regiment, to accept his best thanks for their excellent conduct while in this Province, and his best wishes for their welfare and success.

It is a circumstance highly creditable to this corps that its excellent interior system and the *esprit de corps*, for which it has been always remarkable, has not been impaired by the very heavy losses it has sustained, particularly of officers, in two very severe campaigns.

No. 8. All men belonging to the regiments under orders to proceed to the Lower Province are to accompany their corps.

No. 9. The squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons will be held in readiness to proceed to the Lower Province.

No. 10. His Excellency the Commander of the Forces having confirmed and directed the execution of the awful penalty of death passed upon privates William Ward and Henry Webb of the 100th Regiment and John McMahon of the Royal Scots, Major General Stovin will accordingly see them carried into effect on the prisoners, privates William Ward and Henry Webb of the 100th Regiment on Thursday next, the 27th, in presence of the 100th Regiment and such troops composing the garrisons of the forts as can be conveniently assembled for that purpose. Private John

McMahon to be immediately sent up, under a sufficient escort, to his regiment for the purpose of undergoing the sentence of death passed upon him, on Thursday next, at the same hour, and at such place as Major-General De Watteville may appoint. The Major-General will superintend the execution of the sentence in presence of the Royals and such other corps as can be conveniently assembled.

No. 11. The temporary arrangement of the field brigades in orders yesterday is cancelled, and Major-General Stovin will be pleased to return to Fort George.

No. 12. Staff-Surgeon Mabey has leave immediately to proceed to the Lower Province for the recovery of his health, at the recommendation of a medical board.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

NIAGARA FALLS, 23rd October, 1814.

SIR,—Sometime since I stated to Your Excellency that my very indifferent state of health would not admit of my using the exertions I felt necessary to make in the important discharge of my duty. In consequence of an internal complaint occasioned by an injury I received some months before I came out to this country, which is increased so much of late as to give me the greatest measure of alarm, and from which I continually suffer extreme distress, particularly when under the necessity of using violent exercise on horseback, places me under the absolute necessity of requesting Your Excellency's permission to return to England before the season closes. I have also private business of the most important and urgent nature that requires my presence.

I have postponed making this application to the latest moment, but as all active operations for this season must now cease, I trust Your Excellency will have the goodness to accede to my request, which will be conferring a particular favor.

Brigadier-General D. Bissell to Major-General Izard.

CAMP, FRENCHMAN'S CREEK,
October 22, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that in obedience to your orders of the 18th instant I proceeded with about 900 men of my brigade, a company of riflemen under Captain Irvine, and a small party of dragoons under Lieutenant Anspaugh, by very bad roads and creeks, the bridges over which were broken down, to Cook's

Mills on Lyon's Creek, a branch of the Chippawa, and encamped for the night. Near that place the enemy had stationed a militia picket of twenty men, commanded by a Captain, who made their escape on our approach, the Captain excepted, who was taken. Their picket of regulars found at this place was driven in, and I threw across at that place, (the only one at which it was practicable,) the two elite companies under Captain Dorman, Fifth, and Lieutenant Horrel, 16th Infantry, and the riflemen under Captain Irvine. Our advanced picket on the Chippawa road, commanded by Lieutenant Gassaway, was attacked in the night by two companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who were beaten off with the loss of one man only. On the morning of the 19th we were attacked by the enemy in force, from the best information amounting to more than 1,200 men, composed of the 82nd and 89th Regiments of foot, detachments of the 100th, 104th, the Glengarry Light Infantry, a few dragoons, and rocketteers and one piece of artillery, the whole commanded by the Marquess of Tweeddale, Colonel of the 100th.

The light troops under Captain Dorman and Irvine's riflemen sustained the whole fire of the enemy for about fifteen minutes with the greatest gallantry, until the other troops were formed and brought to their support.

The 5th Regiment, under Colonel Pinckney, aided by Major Baker of the 45th attached to that regiment, was ordered to skirt the woods and turn the enemy's right flank, and if possible to cut off the piece of artillery.

Major Bernard with the 14th was ordered at the same time to form in front, advance to support the light troops, and charge the artillery: the 15th Regiment, under Major Grindage, and 16th, under Colonel Pierce, were ordered to act as circumstances might require.

The well directed fire of the elite corps, riflemen, and gallant charge of the 14th soon compelled the enemy to give ground, and on discovering that his right flank was turned by the intrepid move of Colonel Pinckney, he retreated in the utmost confusion, leaving some killed, wounded and prisoners. We pursued to a ravine some distance from the scene where the action commenced. Not knowing the ground, I did not think proper to push them further, but soon after reconnoitred the country and discovered that they had retreated to their stronghold at the mouth of the river, about seven miles distant.

To the officers and men engaged great credit is due for their zeal and intrepidity, and to those who had not an opportunity to come into action for the promptitude with which they obeyed our

orders. All did their duty—but the handsome manner in which Major Bernard brought his regiment into action, and the gallant conduct of the Elite, under Captain Dorman, deserve particular notice. I am much indebted to that distinguished officer, Colonel Snelling, Inspector-General, for his able services through the action, and much praise is due my aid, Captain Allison (whose horse was shot under him) and Brigade Major Prestman, for their intrepid and useful services in every situation. Lieutenant Anspaugh of the dragoons rendered me much service in communicating my orders. It is justly due, and I may be permitted to add, that every officer and private behaved with that skill and gallantry which will do honor to the American arms. We found in the mills at that place about 150 or 200 bushels of wheat belonging to the enemy, which I ordered to be destroyed. The enemy having retreated to his batteries on the Chippawa, in obedience to your orders I returned, leaving the causeway, bridges, &c., entire. I annex for your information a return of killed and wounded.

N. B.—Acute nervous attacks must be my apology for the delay and imperfections of this report. D. B.

(From Brannan's Official Letters.)

Report of the Killed and Wounded of the Second Brigade, Under the Command of Brigadier-General Bissell, in the Affair of the 19th October, 1814.

Fifth Regiment—Killed: 5 privates; wounded: 1 captain, 1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 9 privates—total, 19.

Fourteenth Regiment—Killed: 1 sergeant, 6 privates; wounded: 1 subaltern, 2 corporals, 16 privates—total, 26.

Twelfth Regiment—Wounded: 1 private—total, 1.

Sixteenth Regiment—Wounded: 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 6 privates, 1 prisoner—total, 10.

Riflemen—Wounded: 1 subaltern, 2 corporals, 8 privates—total, 11.

Names of Officers Wounded.

5th Regt.—Captain Bell, Ensign Whitehead.

14th Regt.—Lieutenant Becket.

16th Regt.—Lieutenant Thomas.

Riflemen—Lieutenant Spurr.

(From Brannan's Official Letters.)

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE NORTHERN ARMY,
CAMP NEAR FORT ERIE, Oct. 23rd, 1814.

The indisposition of Brigadier-General Bissell has prevented till this morning his report of the handsome affair which took place on the 19th. between a detachment of his brigade and a superior force of the enemy.

The object of the expedition entrusted to the Brigadier was the seizure of some provisions intended for the British troops. He marched from Black Creek on the morning of the 18th. with parts of the 5th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Infantry, a small party of dragoons and a company of riflemen—the whole, 900 men. After driving before them a picket, of which they made the commanding officer prisoner, they encamped for the night, throwing beyond Lyon's Creek two light infantry companies under Captain Dorman, 5th. and Lieutenant Horrell, 16th Infantry, and the riflemen under Captain Irvine: a picket on the Chippawa road, commanded by Lieut. Gassaway, was attacked by two companies of Glengarry Light Infantry, which were beaten back with loss. On the morning of the 19th the detachment was attacked by a select corps of the enemy, not less than 1,200 strong. The light infantry, under Captain Dorman, and Irvine's riflemen sustained the whole fire of the enemy for fifteen minutes, during which the 5th and 14th were formed—the 5th was ordered to turn the enemy's right flank while the 14th charged them in front. This was executed in the most gallant manner by Colonel Pinckney of the 5th, and Major Barnard of the 14th, who greatly distinguished himself by the officer-like style in which he conducted his battalion. The enemy were compelled to a precipitate retreat, and hid themselves once more behind their fortifications.

General Bissell particularly mentions the skill and intrepidity of Major Snelling, Inspector-General: Colonel Pinckney, commanding the 5th Regiment: Major Barnard, 14th Infantry: Major Barker, 45th Infantry, acting with the 5th: Captain Dorman, Captain Allison, whose horse was shot under him, and Brigade-Major Lieutenant Prestman of the 5th. Lieutenant Anspaugh of the Dragoons was conspicuous by his alertness in communicating the Brigadier-General's orders during the action. It is with the highest satisfaction the Commanding General tenders to the brave officers and troops of the 2nd Brigade of the Right Division his thanks for their good conduct on this occasion. The firmness of the 15th and 16th Regiments, commanded by Colonel Pearce, and who were posted as a reserve, proved that had the resistance of the enemy afforded them an opportunity of going into action they

would have emulated the valor of the 5th and 14th. A number of prisoners were taken, among whom a picket of dragoons with their horses; a large quantity of grain also fell into our hands. The Brigadier, after completing the orders he received and burying the few of our brave soldiers who fell in the action and the dead of the enemy, which were left on the ground by the latter, returned to Black Creek. To the cool and intrepid conduct of Brigadier-General Bissell the General offers the praise he has so justly entitled himself to.

By order of Major-General Izard.

C. K. GARDNER,
Adj.-Gen. N. Army.

(From Brannan's Official Letters.)

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

CAMP OPPOSITE BLACK ROCK,
October 23rd, 1814.

On the 17th and 18th instant I manœuvred with the army under my command in front of Chippawa in the hope of drawing the enemy out into the field, but in vain. When I retired a few miles, his light parties observed us with great caution, and whenever we returned toward them they took shelter in their works. Having been informed that there was a considerable quantity of grain collected for the British troops at Cook's Mills on Lyon's Creek, twelve miles above Chippawa, I detached Brigadier-General Bissell with nine hundred infantry, on the morning of the 18th, to seize it, and, (if impracticable to convey it to our camp,) he had orders to destroy it. Enclosed is the Brigadier's report. The enemy was completely routed and suffered severely. I transmit a return of our loss both there and in the cannonade before Chippawa, which, under the circumstances of the case, has been small. The conduct of Brigadier-General Bissell has been marked by coolness and the most undaunted intrepidity. During the whole campaign I have received great advantage from the assistance of this valuable officer. His zeal and his attention to discipline have been unremitted. I beg leave to recommend him particularly to the notice of the Government. The officers who are mentioned in his letter also deserve great commendation for their uniform good conduct since I have had the command of the army. During the absence of this detachment I learned from several quarters that the British fleet had arrived at the mouth of the Niagara, and that troops and stores were landing at Fort George. This intelligence induced me

to hope that the enemy would be encouraged to accept the battle I had so frequently offered him ; I therefore took a position at Black Creek, leaving the bridges we had thrown over the various streams in good repair for their accommodation. On the 21st, finding that he still continued within his works, which he had been assiduously engaged in strengthening from the moment of our first appearance, the weather beginning to be severe and a great number of our officers and men suffering from their continued fatigue and exposure, at 12 at noon I broke up my encampment and marched to this ground in order to prepare winter quarters for the troops. Major-General Brown addressed a note to me on the 19th, suggesting his wish to be ordered immediately to Sackett's Harbor, where he should precede his division, which I had informed him it was my intention to station there this winter. In compliance with his request, he was directed to proceed to that post, which he did on the 20th. The infantry remaining of his late force is placed under the command of Brigadier-General Winder, (who joined me a few days ago,) and will commence its march for Sackett's Harbor to-morrow, I shall endeavor to secure Fort Erie from insult by perfecting its defences, and, having selected convenient ground at Black Rock, shall lose no time in constructing huts for the army. It needs repose. The dysentery has already commenced its ravages among all ranks, and our sick list is increasing daily. I beg leave to apologize for any omission in the present communication. The weather is very cold and stormy and the ground wet. As soon as I shall have made my first arrangements, I will do myself the honor of giving you precise information on the subject.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Major Salmon, Norfolk Militia, to Lieutenant-Colonel Parry, 103d Regiment.

My Dear Sir,—We have received the communication from the widow Thomas's, and will forward it to Burford. I am sorry to inform you Dickson's party have murdered old Captain Francis. He slept in the new house, and the family that works the farm in the old house adjoining. They came in the night to the old part and insisted on having Francis. They said he was in the next house, to which they proceeded. The old man said he would surrender himself a prisoner, but begged them to spare his life, which they declared they would not. He then looked out of the upper window to see if there was any way to escape, and was shot through the head. The family heard him fall. They then desired

them to take out the goods, but would not suffer his remains to be removed, which was burned with the house. The adjoining family saw but three men, one of whom was Dickson, but from their conversation believe the party consisted of 30. They arrived early last evening and paroled some of the neighbours. I have only learned the name of Long, who lately kept a distillery near Finch's. At Culver's there are but 3 effective men. I cannot think, with such a party so near, that the stores can be considered safe. The guards at the mills too, should, I think, be strengthened. I mean to turn out 20 men to-morrow, and have written Colonel Ryerson to do likewise, and will keep them out till Drake's return with your order. I saw myself 22 boats of flour off from Teesdale's mill Thursday last. We are very short of ammunition—no flints.

I have the honor to be,

GEORGE C. SALMON,
Maj. Comd'g.

WOODHOUSE, Oct. 22, 1814.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Talbot to Lieutenant-Colonel Parry

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I have this moment received a letter from Major Salmon relating the shocking murder of poor old Francis, by Dickson and party. We must order out a greater force of militia for the guards. A communication should be immediately made of the circumstances of Francis's murder, in order that General Drummond should represent it to the American General and Government. Pray order Drake's certificate for riding express to be paid.

John B. Askin to———

TUESDAY, 12 o'clock at night.

SIR,—I am to inform you that at dusk this evening we were alarmed with the Indians' *news hallow*, and on inquiry find that the enemy have landed a force (to what extent I cannot say) at the mouth of this river. At this time we are again up. The Indian messengers inform that the enemy began their march after sundown towards this place. Our Indians here are collecting to meet them, and if possible give our people time to prepare for an action. They are much alarmed for their families, who are beginning to flee to the woods.

They are of opinion that the enemy are trying to cut off our retreat to Burlington Heights and form a junction with those who [are] to come from Detroit.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, UPPER CANADA,
NIAGARA FALLS, 26th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Adjutant-General's communication, (in cypher,) of the 21st in answer to mine of the 15th, announcing Your Excellency's intention of sending the 9th and 37th Regiments, and of proceeding yourself to this frontier in the squadron.

As I conclude, my subsequent letters, particularly that of the 23rd, would have the effect of inducing Your Excellency to relinquish this latter idea, I shall continue to address Your Excellency at Kingston, to which place I have already intimated that it is my intention to proceed by the return of the squadron.

The main body of the enemy continues in Fort Erie and encamped close to it—its picquets thrown out a very short distance, and in every other respect evincing very little precaution against attack, or rather in some respects, such as leaving the bridges uninjured, appearing to invite our advance. My information leads me to believe that General Brown with a portion of his army has crossed the river, and, they say, has proceeded in the direction of Sackett's Harbor. There remains therefore only General Izard with part of Brown's army, which, if I succeed in gaining good information respecting their exact force and situation, I may be induced, when joined by the left wing of the 90th Regiment, to attack, but without good information I shall not commit the troops by this operation.

I have some time ago received information from various sources of the enemy's intention to push on a party of mounted men from Detroit up the River Thames towards Burlington. I have this evening received accounts from Lieutenant-Colonels Parry and Smelt of the approach of this party, (the strength of which is variously stated,) and at the same time a report has arrived of a body of the enemy having landed at the mouth of the Grand River. Both of these reports are of a nature very confused and indistinct, and I doubt not will prove that the parties in question are a small number of plunderers whom the armed settlers of the country ought to repel. I have, however, permitted the Grand River Indians, under Captain Norton, (who had only arrived on this frontier three days ago, after the enemy had retreated,) to return to their homes, as also the few men, who had come out, of the 5th Lincoln Militia. I have likewise detached one of the troops of the 19th Dragoons to Ancaster, which will be so far on the way to the Lower Province should Your Excellency consent to the proposition I have made for the relief of Major Lisle's squadron.

I enclose a letter and note forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel Parry relative to a most atrocious murder committed by a small gang of ruffians on Captain Francis of the Norfolk Militia. On the whole, Your Excellency will agree with me that it is very necessary that an efficient regiment should be sent to Burlington.

I beg to remind Your Excellency of the necessity of the appointment of an Assistant-Provost-Marshal to this Division.

Lieut.-Colonel Wm. Smelt, 103d Regiment, to the Officer Commanding at York.

BURLINGTON HEIGHTS, October 26th, 1814.

SIR,—I beg leave to report that an express arrived here this morning with the information that the enemy had landed a force at the mouth of the Grand River, and are marching towards this place. In my own opinion it can be nothing more than a marauding [party], as I do not conceive they would venture so far into the country unless they had a very large force, which I do not hear to be the case. The whole of the effective men of the 103d will move forward in the course of the day towards the Grand River.

P. S.—I forgot to mention that there is a report of another party coming down from Detroit.

Lieutenant-Colonel John G. P. Tucker to the Adjutant-General.

YORK, October 27th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to you for the information of His Excellency the Captain-General a letter I have just received from Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt of the 103rd, announcing the landing of a force at the mouth of the Grand River or Ouse.

It has long been my opinion that the most prominent object of the enemy was, and is, to occupy Burlington and York during the winter, and that he would move a very considerable body down the Ouse for that purpose, which, I apprehend, is now the case, and that his force at Erie and in front of Chippawa is only displayed as a mask for the projected operations against Burlington. I fear our information relative to the actual strength of our enemy is generally very defective, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt is in error in supposing that the American General would detach a marauding party of inconsiderable strength to the River Ouse from so great a distance as Detroit.

I hope I shall stand pardoned for presuming to offer an opinion.

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,
FALLS OF NIAGARA, October 28th, 1814.

At a General Court Martial held at Stamford on the 25th instant, and continued by adjournment to the 28th of the same month, Private John McMillan of the 2nd Regiment of Lincoln Militia was arraigned on the following charges, viz:

1st.—For having deserted to the enemy with his arms and accoutrements when on duty, on or about the 6th of October, 1813.

2nd.—For having been taken bearing arms in the service of the enemy, on or about the 17th of September last.

And the court, after duly considering the evidence for the prosecution and on behalf of the prisoner, were clearly of opinion that he is guilty of both charges, and therefore sentence him to suffer death at such place and time as His Honor the President may be pleased to direct.

His Honor the President approves the finding and sentence of the court, and directs that the same be carrried into execution at Bridgewater on Monday morning next, the 31st instant, at 11 o'clock.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost

HEADQUARTERS,
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 30th October, 1814.

SIR,—Since my last I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter of the 25th, together with one from the Adjutant-General of the same date. If the squadron brings up only one regiment it will be necessary that it should make another trip, and at all events that the smaller vessels should come up again, an arrangement that I shall propose to Sir James Yeo, and to which I cannot anticipate any reasonable objection. I imagine Major-General Baynes had made a mistake in the cypher part of the communication which states the issue of rations on this frontier at 4,000 daily. A reference to the weekly returns of the Commissariat Department will show that nearly *double* that number are issued daily with this division, exclusive of Burlington and York; a famine therefore would be the consequence of any hesitation or refusal on the part of the naval commander to take down the regiments which have been relieved.

Major-General Brown, with the greatest part of his force, has undertaken the march to Sackett's Harbor, (perhaps expecting to be met by Commodore Chauncey on his way.) Major-General

Izard's army remains on this frontier, and is, it is said, to be put into winter quarters at Black Rock, Buffalo, Williamsville, (11-Mile Creek,) and Batavia, leaving a sufficient garrison in Fort Erie.

The weather has been so bad, and my information so defective, that I have thought it inexpedient to harass the troops by any forward movement towards the enemy at Fort Erie. Indeed I have considered it to be more polite to allow all alarm to subside, and I am persuaded the acquisition of Fort Erie will not be found difficult whenever the proper moment for attacking it shall arrive. I shall leave full instructions with Major-General Stovin on this subject. I enclose a copy of a District General Order which I have this day issued to this division, and I am persuaded Your Excellency will concur in the tribute of applause which is therein paid to the troops and departments. No material change has taken place in the quarters of the corps since my last. Our advance is at Black Creek, with the picquets and patroles beyond it. We are busily employed in completing the defences of the mouth of the Chippawa, and in preparing cover for the troops destined to remain on this frontier during the winter.

In these labors the greatest benefit would have been derived from the aid of the company of sappers and miners, which Captain Payne states to be unemployed at La Colle, and which on this frontier would be a treasure.

The distribution of the corps will probably be as follows: the 6th, Chippawa; 82d, Lundy's Lane and Stamford; 90th, Queenston, and the remaining corps in the forts: 37th, Burlington and Long Point.

The report of the enemy advancing from the westward and the mouth of the Grand River has, as I expected, proved a false alarm, raised by Indians of the Five Nations, whom I have directed Captain Norton to use his best endeavors to discover.

I have offered a reward of two hundred pounds for the apprehension and conviction of the murderers of Captain Francis.

Continuing on more mature consideration impressed with the difficulty, and indeed, impracticability of any attempt to effect anything at the present season towards carrying out Your Excellency's wishes and instructions into effect with regard to the formation of a naval establishment on Lake Huron, I propose detaching Captain Payne, (on the arrival of the squadron,) in concert with some intelligent naval officer, to examine and report upon the advantages which the neighbourhood of Turkey Point may be found to offer for such an establishment. With the aid of a considerable detachment of the 37th Regiment, which I propose stationing at that place, much might, I think, be done towards a respectable

work there, even before the close of the present season, and the winter would be no interruption to the labors of the shipwright.

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,
NIAGARA FALLS, 30th October, 1814.

No. 1. Lieutenant-General Drummond cannot quit the headquarters of the Right Division of the army without repeating to the gallant troops of which it is composed the public expressions of his best thanks for their uniform good conduct during the late short but arduous campaign, in which their eagerness to meet the enemy without regard to the disparity of numbers or advantage of situation, their patient endurance of labor and fatigue and of the inclemency of an extraordinarily rigorous season, are circumstances which have excited the Lieutenant-General's admiration, and which he has not failed to report to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. Major-Generals Stovin and De Watteville will be pleased to accept Lieutenant-General Drummond's grateful thanks for the able assistance they have afforded him.

3. To the different departments of the army, Lieutenant-General Drummond feels himself called upon to express his entire approbation of their exertions, and Colonel Myers, the Deputy-Quartermaster-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, the Deputy-Adjutant-General, P. Turquand, Esquire, Deputy-Commissary-General, and Dr. Erly, the Acting-Deputy-Inspector of hospitals, will accept the Lieutenant-General's best thanks, and will convey them to the officers of their respective departments.

4. The services of the artillery and engineers' branches have been equally meritorious, and Major Phillott and Captain Romilly will communicate the Lieutenant-General's thanks to all under their respective commands.

Lieutenant-General Drummond is highly satisfied with the assistance which has been afforded him by Captain Foster, his military secretary, and the officers of his personal staff.

Lieutenant-General Drummond proposes to transfer his headquarters to Kingston by the return of the squadron.

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col. D. A. G.

General Izard to General Porter.

HEADQUARTERS,
BUFFALO, November 1st, 1814.

Major-General Porter, New York Militia:

DEAR SIR,—If you could impress the principles on which the papers enclosed in your note of the 28th October are predicated on the people of our country at large, you would do more towards bringing the war to a speedy and honorable termination than all the acts of Congress and votes of town meetings from one end of the United States to the other. As to Captain Watson's company, I had heard of its flight before I crossed the streight, and have substituted a company of regulars, who are now at work there. If some of the intelligent men among them would volunteer to assist us it would [torn] much credit and us much service, [torn] can be done; have the goodness to direct them to report to Doctor Bull, hospital surgeon at Williamsville.

(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter.)

Major Totten, U. S. Engineers, to Major-General Izard.

FORT ERIE, November 1st, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that from the progress already made in preparations for the explosion of these works, three more days may be estimated as sufficient. It is proper to state the impossibility of sinking our shafts to a depth to give the greatest effect to our powder, from the circumstance of meeting veins of water in almost every instance of our attempts. More powder will constantly be requisite, nor indeed will that resource give us the means of complete destruction. The materials of the bastions also (the toughest clay and masonry) require 20 lbs. of powder to the cubic toise—a proportion unusually large.

I beg leave to enclose for your order a return of the ordnance-master. The quantity is doubtless more than sufficient. I am desirous of having on hand enough to meet contingencies.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Lieut.-Col. Hindman, U. S. Artillery, to Major-General Izard.

FORT ERIE, November 2, 1814.

SIR,—I have this moment received a flag which I send you by Lieut. Robinson of the dragoons. It is evident from some improper questions asked the picket guard that something is brewing. A

dragoon deserted last night from my picket guard. He will be able to tell the enemy much. By to-morrow night I think we shall be ready to blow up the place. If heavy boats are not sent, there will be a great sacrifice of artillery. I sent over yesterday ten or twelve pieces of heavy ordnance. I have fifteen or sixteen still here, and some heavy. I want boats to transport them to the other side. We have horses and oxen, which can only be transported from opposite the Rock, but I fear the enemy will seize upon the ferry.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

General Orders.

BATAVIA, November 2d, 1814.

It is with sensations of mortification and pain that Major-General Porter is constrained to announce to the volunteers and militia under his command, that instead of the arrival of the district paymaster on this day with funds to pay off these troops, as had been confidently anticipated and promised, he has just received a letter from him stating that these monies, though daily expected, have not yet been received by him.

This failure, the Major-General assures the troops, is not ascribable to any of the officers of his corps, but, he fears, to the neglect of the higher functionaries in the paymaster's department. The Legislature of the State of New York has not been unmindful of its citizens on the Niagara, having passed a law no longer ago than last week to give them an additional pay of five dollars per month.

In consequence of the longer service of the six months' volunteers it is presumed that they are most destitute of funds, and the Major-General with Colonel Dobbin, Majors Lee and Matteson, have have been enabled to obtain on loan a small sum of money, which will be distributed among this corps to enable them to meet their present necessities. The Major-General earnestly recommends to the men not to be influenced by the representations of speculators to dispose of their expected pay at a reduced value, as he is confident they will receive the whole in a few days.

Judging from his own feelings how anxious all must feel to return to their homes at this late season of the year and after an arduous campaign, the Major-General has thought best not to detain them any longer waiting for their pay, but to discharge them immediately, and, in order to give them time and some small means

of reaching their homes, he will cause them to be mustered up to the 8th of this month and furnish them provisions to the same period.

The commandants of companies will see that their men are properly mustered, and that the papers necessary to their payment are completed, after which they will deposit their arms, equipments and camp equipage by companies in the arsenal, and discharge the men excepting those under guard. The commandants of companies are authorized to sign the discharges. Waggons will be provided for the sick.

The Major-General cannot take leave of companions so strongly endeared to him by the participation of common labors and hazards without painful regret. He sincerely wishes them a happy return and hearty welcome to their friends and families. This return will be sweetened by the recollection that the toils and perils which they have undergone have not been lost to their country, but that to them and their brave associates on the Niagara frontier this part of the country is indebted for its present safety, and the nation to a reiteration of its former military renown.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

BUFFALO, November 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—Severe indisposition, which scarcely left me faculties to execute the indispensable duties of routine, has prevented me from sooner communicating to you the occurrences on the frontier since the 23d ultimo—the date of the last letter I had the honor of addressing to you. The infantry of Major-General Brown's division, under Brigadier-General Winder, proceeded, (as was intended,) on the 24th, and must be now well on its way to Sackett's Harbor. I entertain great doubts of the enemy attacking that place this winter, but even should they do so this reinforcement of troops, who have seen severe service, will be a most important addition to its defence. The crowds of disorganized, unarmed militia, which have assembled there in the last few weeks, would be of more disadvantage than service. A letter from a Brigadier-General Tucker of the New York Militia, dated the 20th ultimo, states the number to be then between four and six thousand, without guns, mutinous, and determined to move off, (as they came,) *en masse* on the 25th inst., should they not be previously discharged. The arrival of Major-General Brown will, I hope, have the effect of calming these people, to whom he has for years been personally known, and

among whom he is popular. I am happy under every point of view in having thus anticipated your instructions of the 24th, which, with the order of the 19th relative to ordnance stores, reached me two days ago. A private letter of a late date from Detroit, which was read to me by an officer of my staff the day previous to receiving your despatches, stated the fact of the arrival at that post of McArthur's command of mounted riflemen seven or eight hundred strong. These would, I trust, secure it for the present. From hence it would take a body of men at least twenty-four days to march round the lake to Detroit, and baggage and supplies could not, in the present condition of the roads, accompany them at all.

I despatched, however, immediately an express to General McArthur to know his situation, and should means of water conveyance occur and the situation of things here permit the movement, I will send him such forces as can be spared. The regiment you allude to from that quarter, and which arrived at Fort Erie a few days before me, is by no means as strong as stated in your letter. By yesterday's report it has only twenty-one officers and four hundred and seventy-six non-commissioned officers and privates fit for duty. Further changes have taken place in this quarter, which must again govern my operations. When before Chippawa, the impression left by General Brown's estimates and observations, was that the remaining British regular forces for the field before us was rather under than over four thousand men, (including the garrisons of the forts below, perhaps five hundred men). It was also reported by our spies near the mouth of the strait that the fleet landed only a few hundred troops, but that the bulk of their cargoes consisted in provisions and stores. This was only in part true. It now seems from the deposition of deserters, corroborated by more recent observations, that the troops were one thousand six hundred in number, besides whom four hundred exchanged prisoners (of the 41st Regiment from Erie) had immediately been put upon duty, and the whole advanced to Chippawa.

Thus when General Brown's command and Porter's volunteers, (the latter highly commendable for having crossed when they did and having encouraged by their presence the fainting regulars at Fort Erie,) had repassed the strait, the relative change between the enemy's strength and mine exceeded four thousand men. If under this disparity of numbers we can keep in check their superior force, the object attained is no humble one. My own belief is that they have been in error respecting my original force, and are yet ignorant of the movement of Brigadier-General Winder's detachment. I cannot otherwise account for their cautious conduct in keeping

behind their intrenchments at a moment when, in the face of an open country, I have crossed at least six thousand troops of all descriptions with their horses, cannon and baggage, and with a complement of boats which could convey no more than six to seven hundred at a time. The last brigade, which has landed at Black Rock, is that of General Bissell: it reached the American shore in safety yesterday. For the two days previously the violence of the southwest wind rendered all communication from this shore to the other impracticable without being driven so low in the strait as would have thrown the boats within the British posts below.

While the storm lasted, (on the last day of which would expire the provisions for the whole force then left on the other side,) I was informed from several sources that these storms frequently continued a fortnight or three weeks in the month of November, and that in the course of the winter the interruption was often repeated. These things inspired no pleasing reflections. Fortunately the wind abated in time to relieve this important part of my army, and induced me to examine maturely the advantages and inconveniences of retaining Fort Erie under the American flag. I cannot find one of the former, (except its being a trophy,) which in any point of view would justify my exposing in a weak, ill planned and hastily repaired redoubt, (it scarcely deserves even that humble designation,) some hundreds of valuable officers and men, with the cannon and various stores, which, if it were taken, would necessarily fall with it into the hands of the enemy. It is as much unprotected in the winter by a force on this side as if it were fifty miles off. It commands nothing, not even the entrance of the strait, and should by any untoward accident the naval superiority on Lake Erie be recovered by the enemy, the garrison must at any season and in a very short time throw open the gates to anybody that would furnish them with the means of subsistence.

After much turning these thoughts and others of the same nature in my mind, I communicated the same separately to General Swartwout, Quartermaster-General, Brigadier-General Bissell, and Major Totten, my chief engineer. They each instantly and unequivocally expressed their satisfaction at learning my resolution, and I was at the same time informed that the desertions among the troops designated for the garrison had, since their destination was known, been daily and numerous. I have directed the secret to be vigorously kept, the work to be continued as if for huts and magazines, but in fact for fuel and mines, and on the 4th or 5th, (should the weather favor us and no attack be made previously by the enemy,) Fort Erie will be dismantled, evacuated and destroyed.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Captain John Bostwick of the Norfolk Militia to the Officer Commanding at Long Point.

YARMOUTH, TALBOT ROAD,
3d November, 1814, 10 o'clock forenoon.

SIR,—Two men have this moment arrived from the River Thames, a few miles below Moravian [Town], with intelligence that the enemy, from 800 to 1000 men, mounted with two three-pounders and a howitzer, left the Moravian Town on Monday last at 11 o'clock in the morning, intending to encamp that night at Fleming's. The enemy's march was so secret it was not known they were on the Thames until they had been more than a day at Moravian [Town].

It appears they marched up the River St. Clair, circulating a report they were going against Saganau, crossed the river to Baldoon, proceeded up the Bear river until they were opposite Moravians and crossed over to that place, carrying their field-pieces on horses. The probability is that they were at Deleware or Westminster last night. The language in circulation with them at Moravians was that they were going to Burlington. But I cannot think their intentions are of that nature, but rather that they intend ravaging this district. They are composed almost entirely of Kentuckians, and undisciplined. The enemy is commanded by General McArthur.

I have sent some intelligent men early this morning to Deleware and Westminster.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, 103d Regiment, to Lieutenant-General Drummond.

BURLINGTON HEIGHTS,
ONE O'CLOCK P. M., November 5th.

SIR,—Lieut.-Col. Parry, being so unwell, has requested me to forward the enclosed letters. From all the information we get I believe, really, that the enemy are moving toward this place. I fear we shall not have more than three hundred regulars. He has called out the militia and ordered the Indians in, but I am sorry to say they are very slow in moving.

Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

HEADQUARTERS, FALLS OF NIAGARA,
5th November, 1814.

SIR,—Since my last I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letters of the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 31st; and the Adjutant-General's letter of the 29th.

Referring as the point of most importance to those parts of your communication expressing Your Excellency's wish that something should be attempted against the enemy at Fort Erie, I have the honor to state that, having given the subject the most mature consideration, I remain of the opinion that under actual circumstances it would not be prudent or politic at present to undertake any operation which has for its object any direct attack on Fort Erie. Not prudent, because I do not think it would be gained (at present) by a *coup de main*, or by surprise, and the state of the roads and the entire destruction of the bridges renders the movement of artillery impracticable, and the lateness of the season renders it highly inexpedient to expose troops to its severity, wholly unprovided as they are with camp equipage, and totally stript of all cover as is the country in which they would have to act. Not politic, because I think the enemy will very shortly evacuate the place and save us the trouble of blowing up the works, and the loss of men which its acquisition would *now* cost us, and because I do not consider that he derives any decided advantage from the kind of occupation which he has of Fort Erie, nor am I of opinion that any impediment or embarrassment whatever will arise to the formation of our proposed naval establishment at Turkey Point from the enemy's occupation of Fort Erie. Impressed, however, with the deference which I owe to Your Excellency's wishes and opinion, I have no hesitation in sacrificing to it every consideration of personal convenience. I shall accordingly forego my intention of returning to Kingston by the squadron, and continue here myself to the latest possible period of the navigation, in the hope of finding an opportunity of effecting the expulsion of the enemy from the footing he still holds on this frontier, an object which, Your Excellency must be aware, I must have at heart in equal degree with Your Excellency.

But in looking to its attainment I shall consider it to be my duty not to pay a price beyond what I consider to be its real value. My own view is directed to the right bank of the Niagara, and not to Fort Erie, and with naval co-operation, that is to say with the aid of a body of seamen with boats, I should not despair, late as the season is, of being able to effect the defeat and destruction of Izard's army. Without this co-operation, however, it cannot be

attempted. In order to propose the co-operation to Sir James Yeo, and to discuss with him and the commissioner and come to a final decision on the proposed naval establishment, I shall hold to my intention of going over to York, from whence I shall return to this frontier, unless the receipt of intelligence of the evacuation of Fort Erie, and the refusal of Commodore Sir James Yeo to join in the proposed operations on the right bank of the Niagara, should render my return unnecessary.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to Commodore Sir James Yeo yesterday from Fort George, where I had gone for the sole purpose of meeting and conferring with him. Your Excellency will perceive by it that after throwing the troops hastily on shore Sir James has gone over to York with the 9-pounder brigade, the ordnance, provisions, and other stores which were embarked in the large ships. I hope he will send them over to the Niagara by the smaller vessels, as they might almost as well have been left at Kingston as be landed at York.

From York I shall again have the honor of communicating to Your Excellency any changes which may have taken place in the situation of the enemy and of my plans in consequence, as well as of the result of our discussion relative to the proposed establishment of the Upper Lakes, as not a moment is to be lost in acting upon the decision which may be adopted. I have again to remind Your Excellency of the importance of sending up Captain Payne's company of sappers and miners without the least delay.

Almost four hundred of the least effective of the 41st, the light company of the King's, the remainder of Captain Holcroft's company of Royal Artillery and some invalids and sick of different corps have already been embarked. I am in hopes, from a note just received from Sir James Yeo, that I may succeed in getting away the 103d and the remainder of the 41st. The latter corps I regret to part with, because in the spring I think it will be a very strong and efficient regiment,—by the former I lose nothing but useless mouths. The aggregate reduction of our issues will be very considerable by this arrangement, and the actual efficient numbers of the division very little diminished. Enough will, I hope, remain for any service which it may be found proper or practicable to undertake before the return of the vessels from Kingston, and far more than we could feed if left during the winter.

The information relative to the murder of Captain Francis was sent to Your Excellency in order that a communication to the American Government might be grounded upon it. I do not see what advantage could proceed from any communication on the subject with the commanding general of their troops in this quarter.

who could only refer such communication to his government. I have called upon Colonel Talbot for a more specific and explicit statement, which will be forwarded when received.

There is another subject of complaint to which it will be my duty to call Your Excellency's notice, relative to the conduct of the American Government, so soon as I procure the necessary information and documents. I allude to its violation of the conditions of the convention for the exchange of prisoners of war, in the instance of the 41st Regiment, and their shameful and cruel treatment of the officers and men of that corps, prisoners of war, by marching them to one of the most unhealthy parts of their territory, where they were suffered to linger in misery and want of everything necessary to health and comfort.

8 P. M.

P. S.—I have deferred sending off my letter of this morning until the return of the officer of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who had been detached towards Fort Erie in consequence of a suspicion that the enemy was evacuating that place. Captain FitzGibbon, the officer alluded to, has this moment arrived at my headquarters with the full confirmation of this rumor. The enemy evacuated Fort Erie early this forenoon, having first blown up the the works and in every other respect completely destroyed and dismantled the place, an event on which I offer Your Excellency my sincere congratulations. Captain FitzGibbon rode through every part of the place, in which the enemy had left nothing except ten or twelve kegs of damaged musket ball cartridges.

This expected event will make no change in my intentions of passing over to York to seek an interview with the commander of His Majesty's squadron. On the contrary, I feel if possible more anxious than before to induce him to consent heartily to co-operate with this division, in which case I think this frontier may be effectually cleared of the enemy.

I cannot conclude this postscript without observing that the wanton outrage, robberies, and excesses lately committed by the enemy's army on this frontier demands a severe retaliation, and I would recommend Your Excellency to make the necessary communication to Sir Alexander Cochrane on the subject, unless you would prefer that it should be inflicted on the opposite frontier, a service which I consider this division is equal at any time effectually to perform.

Edward Dance, Assistant Commissary General, to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, 103d Regiment.

My Dear Sir,—An Indian *News Call* is just arrived. I understand from Mr. Askin and Mr. Smith we can rely upon it. They left Malcolm's Mills after sundown. The Americans had then returned there and were proceeding this way. Three Shawanese are left behind to bring further news. I have thought it best to send on a runner to you directly. The principal chief of the Mohawks here has been very particular with them, and says it is certainly fact. The Indian idea seems to be that they are going back by the Governor's road, but this is only conjecture. They have sent to urge every Indian to pursue them or to resist at the river if they attempt to cross.

Yours very truly,
Ed. Dance,
A. C. G.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt,
Fowlers.

Major A. C. Muir, 41st Regiment, to the Officer Commanding at Burlington.

Woodhouse, 4th November, 1814.
One o'clock a. m.

Sir,—The enclosed I have received this instant, and I beg leave to observe that unless regular troops are immediately sent forward to meet the enemy, I am afraid that the militia will not be able to stop them of themselves, as there are not more than three hundred men in the two Norfolks. As it is still unknown what course they will take, we remain at Culver's ready to move.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Bostwick, Oxford Militia, to — —

Burford, 5th November, 1814.
6 o'clock a. m.

Dear Sir,—A man left Oxford this morning at 3 o'clock. When he left there the enemy were in Oxford in force, the messenger says two thousand. I retire to Malcolm's Mill with what force I have. Forward this information.

A Proclamation.

By John Miller, Esquire, Colonel of the 17th Regiment United States Infantry, Military and Civil Commandant of that District of Upper Canada which is above the Round O on Lake Erie:

Whereas information has been received that the citizens of said district have on hand large quantities of surplus grain, and whereas it is deemed essential to the interests of the service, as well as beneficial to the citizens of said district, that the same should be purchased for the use of the States:

Therefore the citizens of the said district are required and positively commanded to bring and deliver to such persons and at such places as shall be hereafter specified, all the flour, wheat, and oats which they may have on hand more than is absolutely necessary for the use and consumption of their families and stock. The whole of said surplus flour and grain shall be delivered on or before the first day of November next. Those persons on the River Thames above and contiguous to Dolson's will deliver their flour and grain at that place. Those living below Dolson's and those on the Lake St. Clair and Detroit River, and on their waters as low down as the mouth of the Canard, will deliver their flour and grain at Detroit, and those living below the mouth of Canard River as far down Lake Erie as Point au Plait, will deliver theirs at Amherstburg. Major John H. Piatt, the Conductor, and Captain J. McCloskey, A. D. Quartermaster-General, will appoint agents at those places to receive and pay for the flour and grain so delivered, at the following prices: Six dollars per cwt. or twelve dollars per barrel for flour, one dollar and-a-half for wheat, and three-quarters of a dollar for oats, per bushel. Also flour, wheat and oats, over and above what will be absolutely necessary for domestic use, not delivered at one of the above places on or before the first day of November next, agreeable to this order, shall be immediately destroyed, and the person or persons withholding such supplies of flour or grain, or failing to deliver within the time prescribed, shall be severely punished. Three impartial persons shall be appointed to inspect whether more flour or grain has been withheld or kept back than is absolutely necessary for domestic use. The citizens within the vicinity of Dolson's will be held responsible in case the flour and grain deposited at that place is destroyed by secret or clandestine means. Given under my hand at Malden, U. C., this 26th Sept., 1814.

JOHN MILLER,
Col. 17th Regt., Comg.

MALDEN, 5th Nov., 1814.

N. B.—The time specified for delivery on the above proclamation being too limited, the officer commanding the Western District of Upper Canada deems it necessary to put it off to the 20th Dec. next, at which time no failures are expected from the inhabitants.

Report of a Meeting of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

At a meeting of directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chief Justice's, on Thursday, 3d November, 1814:

PRESENT.

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.
The Honble Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

Directors:—

Major Glegg.
John B. Robinson, Esqr.
Wm. Allan, Esqr.
Grant Powell, Esqr.
Wm. Chewett, Esqr.
Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary.*

A representation was read from Colonel Talbot to the society, requesting aid for twenty-seven families residing in the neighborhood of Port Talbot, stating that they have been robbed by the enemy, who, on the 20th Sept. had returned to Port Talbot, burnt the mills and other buildings belonging to Colonel Talbot, together with the house and barn of Colonel Burwell and several others, extending their depredations sixteen miles down Talbot Road, taking all the horses and pillaging the houses of every article of clothing, and destroying such furniture as could not be carried away.

The society, taking the above representation into consideration, unanimously voted that one thousand dollars should be remitted to Colonel Talbot, to be disposed by him in like manner and under like regulations as the sum of five hundred pounds formerly granted to him for the relief of sufferers in his neighborhood, so far as existing circumstances will permit.

ALEXANDER WOOD,
Secretary.

THOMAS SCOTT,
President.

Ancaster, 24th October, 1814.

My Dear Chief,—Your kindness to my representations when I was last at York, induces me to repeat my petitions to your honorable board.

The vagabond enemy, not being satisfied with the plunder they carried off from Port Talbot on the 16th August, returned in greater force about the middle of September, when they burnt my mills and others buildings, destroyed all my flour and killed my sheep, &c. Poor Burwell's house and barn were likewise sacrificed; thence the enemy extended their violence down my road 15 miles. Enclosed is my statement, which I trust may call forth the bounty of the society, as nothing can exceed the deplorable condition of that part of the Province. My mills having been burnt, the farmers will be obliged to take their grain at least 120 miles to have it ground; the expenses attending such transport in these hard times will be heavy indeed. I am considerably alarmed for the fate of the sum the society granted me before, as we have this moment learned that 10 boats have been captured by the enemy near the Bay of Quinte, and Mr. Hatt, who was kind enough to procure the clothing at Montreal for my poor people, is of opinion that my things were in the above boats. Mr. Ralph, who is going to York, will take charge of any assistance which the society may please to afford.

The arrival of our fleet at Fort George, I hope, will ensure quiet to us at least for the winter.

The European and American accounts hold out no great expectations of a speedy conclusion to the war.

God preserve us from greater evils that we have already suffered.

Believe me, my dear sir, always most sincerely yours,

Thomas Talbot.

The Honble Mr. Chief Justice Scott.

The accumulated distresses of the inhabitants of the County of Middlesex since the third of September last compels Colonel Talbot again to implore the benevolent aid of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* towards the relief of the undermentioned persons, who have been robbed by their ferocious enemy, who returned to Port Talbot about the 20th of September, burnt the mills and other buildings belonging to Colonel Talbot, together with the houses and barns of Col. Burwell and several others, thence extending their depredations sixteen miles down Talbot Road, taking all the horses

and pillaging the houses of every article of clothing, and destroying such furniture as could not be conveniently carried off.

List of the sufferers furnished by Colonel Talbot:

1. Alexander Ross, a wife and five children.
2. Neil McNeal, a wife, two children.
3. Timothy Neal, single.
4. Richard Barrett, single.
5. Jeremiah Cranmer, mother 70 years of age.
6. Henry Ramey, single.
7. William Shaff, single.
8. David Mandeville, a wife and seven children.
9. David Rapelje, a wife and nine children.
10. Garret Smith, a wife and four children.
11. Thomas Curtis, a wife and six children.
12. Archibald McNeal, a wife and two children.
13. George Lawrence, a wife and three children.
14. William Lee, a wife and eight children.
15. George Clarke, a wife and four children.
16. Benjamin Wilson, a wife.
17. John Davis, a wife and four children.
18. Joseph Mann, a wife and five children.
19. William Toles, a wife and seven children.
20. Hosker Lee.
21. Jeremiah Rapelje.
22. George Rapelje.
23. Justus Wilcox, a wife and six children.
24. James Neville, a wife and two children.
25. Margaret Pease, a widow and four children.
26. John Brae, a wife and three children.
27. Finlay Grant, single.

THOMAS TALBOT.

Ancaster, 24th October, 1814.

(From the report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada, Montreal. Printed by William Gray, 1817.)

Lieut.-Col. Wm. Smelt to Lieut.-Col. Harvey.

VANDERLIP'S, 5 o'clock p. m.,
6th November.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that I am this far on my road to the Grand River, and if the men are sufficiently recovered shall proceed on this evening, so as to arrive at that place at daylight in the morning. The enemy are encamped there, and some

firing has taken place across. Major Muir has destroyed the scow, which will prevent them crossing any otherwise than swimming their horses, and as most of the Indians are there I trust they will not attempt it. By all accounts the enemy's force does not exceed one thousand, who are chiefly composed of Kentucky riflemen, mounted. Every Indian has turned out most handsomely, and the militia, with the exception of the 2d York. I have with me two hundred of the 103d, and I hope to have Lieut. Charlton up to-morrow morning with the two six-pounders. I shall forward you every information, but if the enemy receive a check at the Grand River I don't think they will attempt to come further, and I have no doubt if the guns arrive in time that this will be the case. Whether Major Muir has acted with judgment in destroying the scow, I cannot judge.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt to Major-General De Watteville.

FOWLER'S, 11 o'clock at night, November, 7th.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward the enclosed letter, by which it appears that the enemy are again advancing towards the Grand River. I think it not improbable that they may attempt to cross by swimming their horses. I shall proceed at daylight in the morning, as it is impossible to go through the swamp in the night. Malcolm's Mill is twelve miles on the other side of the Grand River. They are, however, at different places. By returning to the Grand River they may have received or heard of reinforcements from Long Point, at which place they have said they expected them. I shall forward all information as quick as possible. The Americans, I understand, might very well land three miles down the river, by which means they might get into our rear.

Major-General De Watteville to Lieut.-Colonel John Harvey.

BURLINGTON, November 8th, 1814.
Half-past 6 o'clock a. m.

MY DEAR SIR,—Understanding on my arrival here that General Drummond is at York, I lose no time in enclosing you a report, received this morning from Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, and a letter from that officer to Colonel Parry. The reports respecting the enemy's movements appear to be rather contradictory. I shall proceed immediately to Ancaster and act according to circumstances. If the enemy should be actually on his retreat, which I

think very probable, he having destroyed every mill, I suppose General Drummond would approve of my returning without delay to the Falls.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt to ——

Grand River Swamp,
November 8th, 1814.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter. The report of the enemy having returned to Malcolm's Mills was unfounded. They are still going off towards Long Point, and I have no doubt but they are going back by Talbot's Road. However, I shall be able to give correct information in the course of the night. Captain Chambers of the Quartermaster-General's department is gone over the river with some of the dragoons and Indians, and I am certain to have the very best intelligence, which I will forward immediately as I receive it. The last I heard of the enemy was that they were near Turkey Point. If this information was correct it was my intention to have returned to Burlington to-morrow morning for the purpose of embarking for Lower Canada, should the 37th have arrived, as we have only 180 effective men here, and the greatest part of them convalescent. One six-pounder has arrived here, but which I shall retain here till I hear from Captain Chambers, as the road between this and the Grand River is a swamp nearly the whole way. The enemy's force we have ascertained to be, as near as possible, 1500 mounted riflemen. I think could the Indians be persuaded to follow them a number might fall into our hands, but they do not seem at all inclined.

The number of men I have with me is about 200 regulars, including 27 of the 19th Light Dragoons, about 400 Indians and perhaps 150 militia, but I am sorry to say the Indians are falling back very fast. Their great complaint is want of shoes. The enemy burn everything they fall in with, which is a very great detriment to this part of the country. They do not seem to commit other depredations. I dare say the Indians would go if they had regular troops with them, but as the enemy have such a start and are all mounted, no regulars could possibly overtake them unless they halt on the road, which they will not do, General Izard having left Fort Erie, to which place they were proceeding.

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

BUFFALO, November 8th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 3rd instant I had notice that the British fleet was again at the mouth of the Niagara, and landing troops and stores. My informant stated several pieces of heavy ordnance and fifteen hundred men to have passed that morning from Fort George to Queenston Heights. The enemy, however, advanced no force beyond Frenchman's Creek. All appeared quiet in the vicinity of this position. On the morning of the 5th, everything having been removed from Fort Erie and the preparations for its destruction having been completed, the small remaining garrison was embarked, and soon after the bastions were blown up; it is thoroughly demolished. The enemy was not aware of what had been done for more than twenty-four hours afterwards. The whole of my force is now in the vicinity of this village, engaged in constructing huts. The scarcity of forage has induced me to send the dragoons to the Genesee country, where they will be kept better and at one-fourth of the expense. I have despatched Lieutenant-Colonel Ball and an officer of the Quartermaster-General's department to select the ground for their winter quarters, and in the meantime they have moved to Williamsville, where there is provender sufficient for a few days. The construction of the hospital at the latter place has been delayed by the jealousy and quarrels between the surgeons and the Quartermaster's department of General Brown's division. It is far from ready for the reception of the sick and wounded, who remain principally under tents. By the advice of Dr. Bull, senior surgeon, I have directed such as could bear the transportation to be conveyed to Greenbush in waggons; among these will be the wounded British prisoners. But the remaining number is distressingly great: there are yet nearly two thousand men on the surgeon's list.

No information has reached me from the westward since my last to you, of the 2d instant. If the flotilla were here, I would immediately detach a thousand or twelve hundred men to Detroit—by land it is now impracticable. The dispersion of troops assembled with so much trouble and difficulty would be an unpleasant measure, but I know no other means of protecting Detroit from an attack, which seems to me not an improbable event. The enemy will, I believe, notwithstanding their now very superior numbers, be disposed to let this part of the frontier alone. With such a fair opportunity as was repeatedly offered them on the Canada side of the strait, I doubt their inclination to resume the offensive, especially in this ruined country. There is, however, a greater probability

of their sending a force to the westward. On the subject of the preparations by General McArthur and Governor Cass, I am entirely destitute of information.

The troops under my immediate command, being now engaged in constructing their huts and the final disposition being made of the various detachments and garrisons, there will remain in a short time nothing on this frontier to require my presence. The attention of the government will probably be immediately directed to the operations of the next campaign. If it is the intention of the President to honor me with the command of the 9th District during the next season, it will be all important that I should employ the winter months in making such arrangements as will enable us to take the field and seize some strong positions early in the spring. Much is to be done in every department of the army. System must be enforced in the various branches of ordnance, clothing, quartermaster's, surgeon's, and pay departments. Incalculable expense is produced by the present disorganized state of things. The staff of the army is on a very unpleasant footing. No regular course of discipline and instruction is followed by the troops. Much may be done in the next five or six months, but it must be quickly commenced to be of permanent advantage. I could, at Philadelphia, communicate more rapidly with the Department of War and there superintend the various supplies required for the frontier. At the same time I should have an opportunity of paying some attention to my health, which has suffered considerably by the two last campaigns, and the restoration of which I can scarcely hope for if I remained the winter in this inclement climate.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Captain Peter L. Chambers, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt.

7 o'clock a. m.,
Soverain's Mills, 9th Nov., 1814.

My Dear Sir,—Owing to the destruction of the scow at Grand River, the party did not get across until late, and arrived at Major Ree's last night after dark. I then forwarded my advance to this place. An American spy was here last night and attempted to steal a horse, but was pursued. He left the horse and escaped. The enemy have plundered the country in a most shameful manner, stole the horses, clothing, &c., and burned all the mills as far as this.

Sergeant Collins of the 41st Regiment and Private Barto of the militia were killed and mutilated in a most horrible manner. Barto was actually butchered (no appearance of having been shot) both scalped and cut shockingly. I shall proceed as far as I can with safety, and let you know if anything occurs worth communicating.

Major-General Louis De Watteville to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.

ANCASTER, November 9th, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—On my arrival here yesterday about 12 o'clock, I wrote immediately to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, requesting him to forward to me any further intelligence he might have received of the enemy's movements, and meeting at this place Lieutenant Kemble of the Glengarry Light Infantry, I detained him with the representation that I should be able this morning to send more positive information. By the enclosed letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt arrived last night, there appears to be little doubt but the enemy are on their way back, after having destroyed all the mills in that part of the country, which has probably been one (the principal) object of their expedition. Captain Chambers' more correct intelligence expected by Colonel Smelt has not yet arrived, but thinking that General Drummond may be waiting for Lieut. Kemble's return, I do not deem it proper to detain that officer any longer. The moment I receive Captain Chambers' report I shall not fail to forward it to you, despatching at the same time an express to Fort George to inform Major-General Stovin of the situation of affairs in this part of the country.

Major-General Louis De Watteville to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.

ANCASTER, 10th November, 1814.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 8th despatched from York, (which I received last night,) I have the honor to acquaint you that by the best information I have been able to collect, and which may be *perfectly relied on*, the enemy, consisting of about 1,500 men, all mounted, are by this time a long way from Long Point on their march back. On the 6th they were on the Grand River, but without making any serious attempt to cross it, it appears that they commenced their retreat on the evening of that

day, burning every mill they fell in with, with the exception of two mentioned in the enclosed note from Colonel Talbot. The destruction of the mills and the means of subsistence appears to have been one of the principal objects of their expedition. Captain Chambers, with the party of dragoons under Captain Eustace, crossed the Grand River on the evening of the 8th, and has since sent in the enclosed report. I expect every moment to hear of his having arrived at Long Point.

The right wing of the 37th Regiment has arrived at Burlington only yesterday in the afternoon, and the other wing is expected at that place in the course of this day. Agreeable to the directions contained in your letter, one wing of the 37th, with two six-pounders, will march to-morrow morning from Burlington to Long Point, (provided the commissary can make the necessary arrangements for the subsistence of the troops,) which perhaps may be found difficult in consequence of the depredations committed by the enemy. I hope, however, that the two mills that fortunately have been spared will remove the difficulties.

The other wing of the 37th will remain at Burlington, the enemy having retreated so far that no apprehensions of an attack are to be entertained. The 103d Regiment are marching to-day from the Grand River swamp to the outlet, where, according to information received by Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, two brigs have arrived to convey them to Kingston. I have sent orders to the detachment of the 19th Dragoons under Captain Eustace to take up their quarters at Long Point. Major Lisle, with the few men and serviceable horses he has with him, remains at this place, and I believe it would be well to order the detachment which was on the Black Creek to join him at Ancaster if they are not wanted on the Niagara Frontier. I have mentioned this to General Stovin.

I hope you have received my despatch of the 6th, and the letter of yesterday transmitted by Lieutenant Kemble of the Glengarry Light Infantry.

Captain S. Romilly, R. E., to Sir Gordon Drummond.

ENGINEER OFFICE,
CHIPPAWA, 10th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor of reporting the state in which the enemy left Fort Erie.

It appears that they had constructed a work beyond the old fort, consisting of two bastions, (1 and 2 in the sketch,) the curtain was formed of high palisades and a log building behind them, loop-holed; they were joined to the work by two other curtains formed of earth. I think the scarp must have been 16 or 18 feet. Before the old palisades a small fleche has been made, two lines run from the fort to the lake, the one facing Black Rock is well flanked with a double abattis in front, the other with only a single one.

The line from the fort to Snake Hill is very weak, great part has been destroyed as well as a second line marked in the sketch. There appears to have been an intention of forming a square redoubt in the centre from the remains of the two faces.

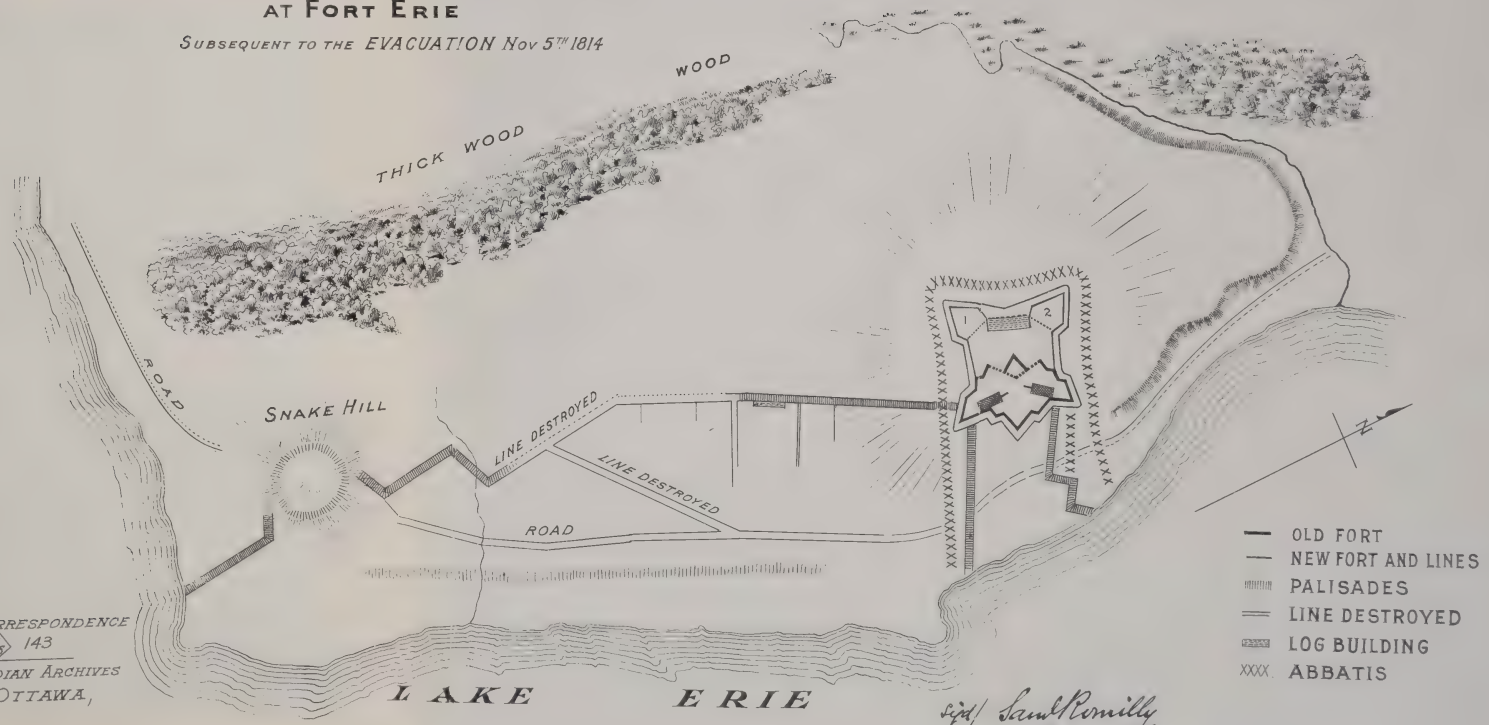
Snake Hill is now a mound of sand, so completely have they blown up the works.

The two new bastions are also destroyed by mines; the palisades at the gorges remain. The log building has been burnt, and nothing but the shells of the stone barracks are left, otherwise the old fort has not been much hurt.

If the position is occupied, nothing but a regular work capable of standing a siege should be constructed.

MAP SHOWING THE INTRENCHMENTS AT FORT ERIE

SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVACUATION Nov 5th 1814



Sgd/ Saml Romilly
Capt R Engineers.

MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE
MG 143
CANADIAN ARCHIVES
OTTAWA,

Major Chambers, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, to Major-General De Watteville.

LONG POINT, 10th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that the enemy have retreated towards Amherstburg by Colonel Talbot's road with the greatest precipitancy, leaving a number of horses, etc., behind them. The avowed object of the enemy was to destroy all the mills in the country, (so as to prevent our advancing this winter to Amherstburg,) which I happily defeated by the rapidity of my advance. I did not give them time to complete the work of destruction, three mills being left. Had we not arrived in time the whole of this valuable settlement must have fallen a prey to famine this winter. At present not a single barrel of flour is to be purchased in the district. The enemy have plundered the inhabitants most disgracefully and stole every horse they could find.

To Captain Eustace and Lieutenant Horton, 19th Light Dragoons, I am under great obligations for the spirit and unwearied activity they have displayed on this occasion. The conduct of the troops was excellent. I beg leave to mention that Major Salmon of the 2nd Norfolk Militia was of great service to me and very active.

Lieutenant-General Drummond to Captain Freer, Military Secretary.

KINGSTON, November 12th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit sundry letters enclosed by Major-General De Watteville received here last night, relative to the proceedings on the Grand River. I look for further reports with anxiety, which I will not fail to forward without delay, for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces immediately on receipt of them.

Lieutenant-General Drummond to Sir James Lucas Yeo.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,
13th November, 1814.

SIR,—Having just received an account of the destruction by the enemy of all the resources (and the mills) of the country to the westward of the Grand River, from which we had calculated upon receiving the principal part of the supplies destined to support the regular troops and Indians during the approaching winter, it

becomes absolutely necessary that the means of feeding them should be forwarded from hence before the close of the navigation. I cannot exactly state the quantity of transport which will be required, but I can, without hesitation, say that nothing less than the aid of the whole squadron will be sufficient to relieve the urgent wants of the right division of the army. In the event of your agreeing to afford me the assistance which I feel it my duty to require, I should be induced to avail myself of the opportunity of proceeding myself to Burlington in order to ascertain the extent of the mischief which the unfortunate want of troops at that period has enabled the enemy to do us, and to make such arrangements as may appear to be called for.

It will be necessary, in my opinion, that the *smaller vessels* should land the stores they may take on board, at Burlington Beach.

In anticipation of your assent to a proposition which is so immediately connected with the preservation of an important part of the province, and which must be absolutely evacuated by the troops unless I am provided with the means of conveying relief to them, I have directed the Deputy Commissary-General to be prepared to put on board the ships every barrel of provisions which can possibly be spared from the stores of this depot.

Under the unfortunate circumstances which have occurred, it would perhaps be advisable to change the plan relative to the crew of the *Niagara*, which would only add to the difficulties which we shall, I fear, experience in feeding any at Turkey Point. At all events, for the present, I would advise only a few artificers and shipwrights being sent there. The crew of the ship can be sent up in the winter.

Commodore Sir James Yeo to Sir Gordon Drummond.

His Majesty's Ship *St. Laurence*,
At Kingston, the 14th November, 1814.

Sir,—I have had the honor of your letter of yesterday's date, acquainting me of the destruction by the enemy of all the mills to the westward of the Grand River, and requiring the aid of the whole squadron to relieve the urgent want of the right division of the army.

I have at all times, from motives of duty and inclination, been ready and solicitous to co-operate and assist the army to the utmost of my means and ability, and therefore on the present occasion feel the more distressed that it is not in my power to comply with your

request without exposing His Majesty's squadron to the most imminent danger, such as no officer would be warranted in risking. I have consulted Messrs. Richardson, the pilots, and others best acquainted with the lake, who give it as their opinion that it would be the height of imprudence and hazardous in the extreme to take the large ships on the lake at this advanced season of the year. That it has ever been the custom to lay up the vessels on the 15th of this month, and though small vessels have been on the lake as late as the 1st of December, they have narrowly escaped being lost; that the snow-storms generally last twenty-four hours with great violence, and that there is no anchorage for large ships between this and York. I do not hesitate in declaring that, if the squadron were to be caught on the lake in such a storm, it is my opinion their loss would be inevitable. It is also to be considered that were the squadron at this moment ready to sail, the service could not be accomplished under ten days at least, from its being impossible to approach the Niagara River within six miles, Burlington is out of the question, and York, which is the only place the squadron can communicate with, the ships are obliged to lay at the distance of three miles, and it is only in moderate weather that boats could land the provisions. It would therefore be December before the squadron could return, and then could not get into port if the wind was easterly.

The *Montreal* is reported by the builder as being unfit for service without undergoing repairs, and I can assure you, sir, I am not without my apprehensions for the safety of the two brigs on the lake.

I shall attend to your suggestions as to the crew of the *Niagara*.

Should you determine on going up and think proper to accept of the *Niagara*, I will order Captain Collier to be prepared to receive you on board.

Lieut.-General Drummond to Captain Noah Freer.

KINGSTON, 14th November, 1814.

SIR,—In consequence of the devastation committed by the enemy in the neighbourhood of Grand River and Turkey Point, I considered it requisite to address the letter, of which the accompanying is a copy, to Commodore Sir James Yeo, stating the necessity of his transporting a supply of provisions for the right division from hence before the close of the navigation. A copy also of the Commodore's reply I have the honor to enclose for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces.

Independent of the want of provisions, which now must necessarily be the result of the destruction of the mills in that vicinity, the proposed naval establishment on Lake Erie must be, I understand, for the present suspended. The Commodore and the Commissioner, Sir Robert Hall, having called upon me to state that they have not a sufficiency of guns or stores to complete a vessel of the description and class they had intended to build at that place, I have, notwithstanding, directed Captain Payne to proceed thither with the detachment of Sappers and Miners, and Major Cockburn with the company of Canadian Fencibles, for the purpose of executing the military part of the plan, as far as erecting cover and some defences for the troops and naval artificers, a small body of whom are to be employed cutting and preparing timber to be in readiness for dockyard use when required.

I have the honor to transmit a letter from Major-General De Watteville covering a report of the enemy's movements towards Turkey Point, which I did not consider of sufficient importance to despatch by an extra express—the regular express day from hence being to-morrow.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Talbot to Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Smelt, 103d Regiment.

My Dear Colonel,—I have this instant received intelligence from a man from Long Point that the enemy left Culver's yesterday morning about 9 o'clock and took the direction of Talbot Road, without completing the work of destruction; that is, they have spared Tisdale's and Backhouse's mills, through the entreaties of *American Marshal Long*, who had remained at Long Point to deliver over the British prisoners. The enemy encamped last night at Browne's, ten miles from Culver's. To-morrow, I should presume, you may move off for Burlington. I will have the pleasure of seeing you early to-morrow morning.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Talbot.

Bunnell's, Wednesday evening, 8 o'clock.

Lieutenant-General Drummond to Captain Freer.

Kingston, Nov. 15th, 1814.

Sir,—Since my letter of yesterday, enclosing Major-General De Watteville's report of the 9th instant, I have received Captain Chambers' letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, and a note from Colonel Talbot, also to that officer, enclosed in the despatch, of which

the accompanying is a copy, from the Major-General, on the 10th instant.

Lieutenant-General Drummond to Captain Freer.

KINGSTON, Nov. 17th, 1814.

SIR,—Enclosed is a copy of a report from Captain Chambers, Deputy-Assistant Quarter-Master-General, transmitted to me by Major-General De Watteville.

The Major-General upon faith of the enemy's retreat had set out for Chippawa, but I doubt not has by this time returned to Ancaster in consequence of intelligence which has overtaken him on the road, that a body of the enemy had crossed the River Thames at Delaware and are advancing towards Oxford. This intelligence was brought by a Huron Indian, but how far it is to be relied on is yet to be known.

Five companies of the 37th Regt., with two six-pounders complete, had marched for Turkey Point.

Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS,
BUFFALO, November 17th, 1814.

SIR,—Nothing of interest has occurred here since my last. Rumors from several quarters lead to a belief that Brigadier-General McArthur has made an incursion into the Upper Province. My only information on the subject is derived from persons lately from the other side, who have been permitted to join their families in this part of the country. When, where, and with what force, I am entirely ignorant. The express I sent to him on the 1st instant has not returned.

A letter from Captain Sinclair, U. S. Navy, dated Erie Roads, 7th November, reached me on the 13th, at night. He applies for marines and for a guard for naval stores. I was glad to know where to direct to him, and despatched an express informing him that "if he deems it practicable and consonant to his instructions, a detachment of troops should be embarked for Detroit as soon as he should be ready to take them on board." The roads must be very bad or the messenger would have returned ere this. Brigadier-General Smith on his urgent request had leave of absence on our recrossing the strait. He had been absent several years from his family, and is gone to Tennessee.

I had no particular reasons for wishing to detain him.

Brigadier-General Bissell is in ill-health, and presses for a similar indulgence. I wrote on this subject to the war office on the 8th instant. To obviate the inconvenience of leaving this division without general officers, I have ordered Brigadier-General Winder hither from Sackett's Harbour. I expect him about the end of this month.

(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)

Brigadier-General McArthur to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, DETROIT,
18th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction to report to you the safe return of the mounted troops to this place, on the 17th instant.

In a former communication I had the honour to inform you that the mounted volunteers were marched in this direction in consequence of the regular troops having been withdrawn, and the apprehensions that were entertained for the safety of this territory, of which I was advised by His Excellency Governor Cass.

The militia detached from Kentucky and Ohio having arrived, they were assigned for the immediate protection of this place. It was then deemed expedient, from the ardor and species of the force, that the mounted volunteers should be actively employed in the territory of the enemy, with a view to destroy their resources and ultimately to paralyze any efforts which might be made against this place during the winter.

The valuable mills at the head of Lake Ontario and in the vicinity of Grand River furnished large supplies to the army in the peninsula. Their destruction was desirable. To that effect the mounted troops, consisting of six hundred volunteers, fifty United States Rangers, and seventy Indians, were put in motion on the 22d of October, to pursue the route along the western shore of Lake St. Clair, and pass into the enemy's territory near the mouth of that river.

The real object of the expedition was masked by the general impression that it was destined against the Indian towns at Saguina. To favour that idea boats were prepared for the reception of artillery, to be conveyed through Lake St. Clair, up that river into Lake Huron, and to co-operate with the mounted troops in the attack. The boats were, however, employed in the transportation of the troops and horses across the River St. Clair and Bear Creek, which empties into Baldoon river. This movement was

absolutely necessary to secure that secrecy to the expedition which could alone render it successful. All military movements in this direction are rapidly communicated to the enemy from Sandwich and this place. It was therefore deemed improper to pass the troops across this river, but to proceed over the River St. Clair down to the Scotch settlement on the Baldoon, up Bear Creek about 30 miles and across to the Moravian Towns a few miles above the lower settlement on the Thames, where the detachment arrived on 30th of October.

We were very fortunate at this place in taking a sergeant in the British service who was proceeding to Burlington with the information that the detachment had passed into the enemy's territory. The capture of this sergeant at the commencement of the "Long Woods" between the Moravian Towns and Delaware, enabled us to reach the latter place undiscovered. On our approach, the rangers were detached to move across the Thames below the settlement, pass in rear of it and guard the different roads leading into the interior, whilst the troops were engaged in swimming their horses and transporting their baggage on rafts.

We were thus enabled to arrive at the town of Oxford, one hundred and fifty miles distant from Detroit, before the inhabitants knew that a force was approaching. They were promised protection to their persons and property upon condition that they remained peaceably at their respective homes, otherwise they were assured that their property should be destroyed.

However, notwithstanding this injunction and the sacred obligations of a previous parole, two of the inhabitants escaped to Burford with the intelligence of our arrival. Their property, consisting of two dwelling houses, two barns, and one shop, were instantly consumed.

On the succeeding day, the fifth instant, the detachment proceeded to Burford, where we were informed that the militia had been embodied about ten days previously to our arrival, in consequence of reports received from Sandwich that an expedition was expected to move from Detroit against Burlington.

A few hours before our arrival, the enemy retreated from Burford to Malcolm's Mills, ten miles distant on the road leading from Dover to Burlington, where they were joined by the militia from Long Point.

It was my intention to cross Grand River as soon as possible, without regarding the militia collected at Malcolm's mills, and attack Burlington. To my great mortification, upon our arrival at the river we found it high and rapid from the late excessive rains, and learned that General Brown had recrossed the Niagara, leaving

only a strong garrison in Fort Erie. No means were presented even of passing the river on rafts, and, had it been effected, upon our return the militia, contemptible as they were, might have been encouraged to attack when a rapid river divided us. Major Muir, with about fifty Indians and fifty militia, was preparing to contest the passage. A battery was also erecting, as was understood, for three pieces of artillery, distant twelve miles on the road from Burlington.

These considerations presented serious objections to any attempts to pass the river; it was also due to the past sufferings and the future safety of the gallant detachment under my command that a direction should be given to its movements calculated to afford compensation for the former and secure the latter.

It was therefore determined upon to attack and defeat or disperse the militia at Malcolm's mills, move down the Long Point road through the Grand River settlement, destroy the valuable mills in that quarter, and then return to our territory, either by a movement across Grand River at the mouth to Fort Erie or along Talbot's street to the Thames.

To that effect a detachment was directed to remain and engage the attention of the enemy whilst the principal force should be withdrawn and marched to Malcolm's mills. We found the enemy, consisting of four or five hundred militia with a few Indians, fortified on commanding ground beyond a creek, deep and difficult of passage except at a bridge immediately in front of their works, which had been destroyed. Arrangements were made for a joint attack on the front and rear. The Ohio troops with the advance guard and Indians were accordingly thrown across the creek under cover of a thick wood, to approach the enemy in the rear, while the Kentucky troops were to attack in front as soon as the attention of the enemy was engaged by the attack in the rear. The enemy would have been completely surprised and captured had not an unfortunate yell by our Indians announced the approach of the detachment destined to attack their rear. They were, however, defeated and dispersed with the loss in the skirmishes on that day of one captain and seventeen privates killed, nine privates wounded, and three captains, five subalterns and one hundred and three privates made prisoners, whilst our loss was only one killed and six wounded. Early on the 7th instant, the enemy were pursued on the road to Dover, many made prisoners and five valuable mills destroyed.

Apprehensive that the troops could not be supplied on the route to Fort Erie, and that difficulties would occur in the passage of the Grand River, together with the uncertainty which existed

as to the position of our army below, I was induced on the 8th instant to commence my return to this place by the way of Talbot street and the Thames, which was happily effected on the 17th instant.

In this excursion the resources of the enemy have been essentially impaired, and the destruction of the valuable mills in the vicinity of Grand River employed in the support of the army in the peninsula, together with the consumption of the forage and provisions necessary for the troops, has added to the barrier heretofore interposed by an extensive and swampy frontier against any attempts which may be made this winter in the direction of Detroit.

With the exception of nine thousand rations and eight hundred bushels of forage, the detachment subsisted entirely on the enemy. Of private property no more was destroyed than was absolutely necessary for the support of the troops, for which regular payments or receipts were given. It is much to be regretted that there were some partial abuses produced by the unfortunate examples presented by the Indians, whose customs in war impel them to plunder after victory; but for this blemish there was some excuse in their correct and gallant conduct before and during battle. It is also gratifying to know that they were forgetful of the atrocious deeds committed by the Indians in the service of the enemy; neither the innocent or disarmed have been massacred or molested.

The honourable deportment of the Chiefs Lewis, Wolfe, and Civil John was truly animating to all the troops.

It was essential to the progress of the expedition the horses of individuals should be taken to supply the place of those that were disabled and lost on the march. In all cases receipts were given.

The Michigan militia were invited to accompany us on the expedition; not more than twenty accepted it—of those six deserted near Delaware and the remainder were permitted to return on the next day. Lieutenant Rutland of Captain Audrain's company of rangers from Detroit was distinguished for zeal and intrepidity.

The patriotic volunteers under my command have just claims on the gratitude of their country when it is recollected that they tendered their services with no other assurance than the approbation which always attends disinterested sacrifices; that they have performed much duty at an inclement season through an extensive and swampy district frequently intersected with deep and rapid rivers; that they have penetrated two hundred miles into the enemy's territory, destroyed two hundred stand of arms, together with five of their most valuable mills, paroled or dispersed the

greater part of the efficient militia of that part of Upper Canada west of the Grand River, and the whole detachment has returned to this place with the exception of one killed.

The ardor which the troops always evinced when they expected to meet the enemy was not more conspicuous or praiseworthy than the cheerfulness with which they conformed to the rules of military propriety. The officers and privates, with a very few exceptions, merited my warmest approbation.

I was much indebted to the zeal and intelligence displayed on all occasions by Major Dudley, commanding the Kentucky battalion, and was ably assisted by the zeal and assiduity of Doctor Turner of the Seventeenth Infantry. Captain Bradford of the Nineteenth Infantry—my Brigade-Major—already distinguished at Fort Meigs and Tehoopcaw, is entitled to my sincere thanks for his exertions under every difficulty, and I have the support of the troops in assuring you, sir, that to the military talents, activity, and intelligence of Major Todd, who acted as my Adjutant-General, much of the fortunate progress and issue of the expedition is attributable, and I cheerfully embrace this opportunity to acknowledge the important services he has rendered me.

Lieutenant-Colonel James to Colonel Harvey.

BURLINGTON, 21st November, 1814.

SIR,—I do myself the honor to inform you that Captain Wm. Caldwell arrived here yesterday, bringing with him a man named Bazely from Oxford, where he took him prisoner, and found in his pocket copy of the enclosed order, issued by General McArthur and signed by the Ac.-Q.-Mr.-General of the American force. The man is now in the guard room here, which has been allotted for civil prisoners.

Captain Caldwell went as far as Delaware, where he learned that the enemy had re-crossed to Detroit, having embarked at the extremity of the Thames. Their number did not exceed 1,000; that they advanced upon Oxford quietly but with rapidity, leaving their tired horses and taking fresh ones wherever they found them. Captain Caldwell states the prisoner Bazely to have given information to the enemy which was the cause of burning the houses of several loyal subjects in the vicinity of Oxford. He adds his belief that the enemy only destroyed and carried off 250 horses, 200 sheep, 100 oxen and 100 hundred hogs. Three mounted British subjects with six Indians have gone as far as the Detroit, from which place they may be expected in the course of four days. I

beg leave to acquaint you that Captain Caldwell has stated a great inconvenience, which has constantly attended his reconnoitreing parties, particularly in the latter ones, by having been obliged to pay for the hire of horses and food for his party. He requested me to state how advantageous it would be to be permitted to press horses, or in both instances to be allowed payment.

I forward a letter from Major Tilt, and fear the men will be very badly off for stores, which can with great ease be sent from York before the conveyance by water closes if an order to that effect is speedily forwarded.

I was misinformed when I stated in a former letter that *three* mills remained, which information I obtained from Captain Chambers.

I have great pleasure to report, on the authority of Colonel Caldwell, who has had a man in from beyond Delaware, that there is not an open American enemy in the British possessions, and which information I am confident may be relied on.

List of Persons of the County of Norfolk Plundered by the American Army under General McArthur, in the Month of November, 1814.

		£	*s*	*d*
1.	James Crane	60	10	0
2.	James Brown	36	0	0
3.	Jacob Byard	31	15	0
4.	Jacob Crane	35	2	6
5.	Samuel Brown	39	15	0
6.	Noah Fairchild	50	5	0
7.	Joseph Boughner	7	0	0
8.	Thomas Shippey	6	6	0
9.	Philip Wilson	15	19	5
10.	Martin Boughner	12	0	0
11.	Ephraim C. Mitchell	27	2	6
12.	James ———	66	16	0
13.	Aaron Collver	31	5	0
14.	John Collver	6	15	0
15.	John Davis	1000	0	0
16.	Morris and Leonard Sovereen	1750	0	0
17.	Joseph Wooley	44	0	0
18.	Levi Douglas	20	0	0
19.	William Bird	24	0	0
20.	E. Woodruff	20	0	0

21.	E. Woodruff and A. Collver	1700	0	0
22.	Leonard Sovereign.....	149	0	0
23.	John Robins.....	213	0	0
24.	Shearman Hyde.....	45	0	0

(Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 387-8.)

Report of a Meeting of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

At a meeting of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chief Justice's on Friday, the 2nd December, 1814:

PRESENT.

The Honble Thos. Scott, Chief Justice, President.
The Honble Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

Directors:—

The Honble Wm. Campbell.
The Revd. Doctor Strachan.
John B. Robinson, Esqr.
D. Cameron, Esqr.
Wm. Allan, Esqr.
Alexander Wood, Esqr., Secretary.

Freedom Burdick and George Nichol, both of Oxford, appeared recommended by Henry Bostwick, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Wm. Brown, Major of the Oxford Militia. Colonel Bostwick states in his recommendation that George Nichol gave notice of General McArthur's approach, and in consequence the Americans burnt his house and barn and destroyed everything he had except a few head of cattle.

Freedom Burdick saved his house and cattle but lost everything else. Both appeared to be steady, loyal subjects and deserving the kind consideration of the board.

Resolved,—That the sum of two hundred dollars be granted to George Nichol.

That the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars be granted to Freedom Burdick: the reason for giving fifty dollars more to George Nichol than to Freedom Burdick arises from his having his barn burnt.

The society having received fifty medals from Europe, the president is requested to address a letter to the patron of the society, soliciting His Honor's aid in the disposal of them, by obtaining a report from officers commanding corps employed during

the war of such individuals in the respective corps as may be considered entitled to the distinction of a medal referring to the particular circumstances.

ALEXANDER WOOD, Secretary. THOMAS SCOTT, President.

(From the Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, Montreal, 1817, pp. 147-9.)

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, November 24th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's two letters of the 18th inst.

As soon as I have received Colonel Talbot's communication relative to the murder of Captain Francis of the militia, I will lose no time in transmitting the statement to Your Excellency.

I have forwarded a copy of that directing the retaliatory measures to be pursued against the enemy to Major-General Stovin, commanding the right division.

By last accounts from Burlington, it would appear that the enemy have altogether retired to Detroit and Major-General De Watteville had returned to Chippawa.

The *Niagara* is now alongside the *Princess Charlotte*, taking in the guns, anchor, and stores for the vessel to be built at Penetanguishene.

The *Charwell* will proceed with a small supply of provisions and stores to the head of the lake. The *Star* unluckily sprung her masts in a gale and cannot venture upon the lake again this season. This is an extremely unfortunate circumstance, as there are still many men of the 41st, 100th, and 103d Regiments to be brought down.

General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
MONTREAL, December 1st, 1814.

In reviewing the operations of the campaign on the Niagara frontier under the immediate direction of Lieutenant-General Drummond, from its commencement to its close, the Commander of the Forces is called on most highly to commend and notice the spirit of enterprise with which every opportunity to annoy or repulse the enemy has been seized, and the avidity with which they were followed up as far as was prudent.

His Excellency has marked with admiration the patient but determined endurance of harassing fatigue, aggravated by circumstances of particular privation, being exposed without shelter to an almost incessant deluge, which left not the tired soldier a single spot of dry ground to rest his wearied limbs; but it is more particularly in the close of the campaign that the sterling qualities of the British soldier were conspicuously displayed. In the approaching prospect of a general action all hardships and past sufferings were forgotten, the superior force of the enemy despised, and confident in the result which tried courage and discipline must command, the threatened attack was invited with that intrepid, undaunted countenance that the enemy shrunk from and retreated to his own shore, sacrificing the arduous labours of many months, and bringing the campaign to a conclusion highly honourable to the Right Division.

Thus the enemy's annual attempt to invade the Upper Province has once more recoiled on him with increased dishonour in proportion to his means. By the command of both lakes, Ontario and Erie, the American Government was enabled to concentrate on the Niagara frontier the whole of its disposable force for the purpose of insuring success to its schemes of subjugation.

The horde of mounted Kentuckians under General McArthur did not make its appearance until the enemy were retiring from Fort Erie to their own shore. It was checked in its attempt to pass the Grand River by a detachment of the 103d regiment and a band of Indian warriors, and its retreat has been followed by a detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons, conducted by an officer of the Quarter-Master-General's department. Its course is marked by wanton plunder, devastation, and indiscriminate pillage. It is to be lamented that the rapid movement of the marauders has screened them from the punishment due to a course of lawless conduct equally repugnant to the dictates of humanity and the usages of war.

It will prove a most grateful duty to the Commander of the Forces to bring to the notice of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent the able support he has experienced in the talents and exertions of Lieutenant-General Drummond, and in transmitting the reports of that officer, which record in detail the most honourable testimony of the ready assistance he has received from the generals and other officers and troops serving with the right division, particularly the cordial co-operation and the gallant and most useful exertions of Captain Dobbs of the Royal Navy and the officers and seamen placed under his command, as well as other remarkable

instances of zeal and bravery which have been displayed by corps and individuals, and have attracted the applause of the Lieutenant-General.

EDWARD BAYNES,
Adjutant-General.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel Talbot to Captain Foster, dated Major Salmon's, Long Point, 3rd December, 1814.

Your letter from Kingston, dated the 18th of last month, reached me some days ago. I have, in compliance with the desire of Lieutenant-General Drummond, collected the enclosed information respecting Dixon and the persons who formed his party.

The most satisfactory particular is his having survived his atrocious murder of poor Captain Francis but a few days, he having received a mortal wound from some militiamen near Sugar Loaf. His associates, Dockstader and Robinson, succeeded in taking him to Buffalo, where he died a few hours after his arrival. His wife, who is a native of this Province, has returned to her father's at Long Point. I have required her deposition to be taken before two Magistrates, and also those of the family of Dennis, who lived in Captain Francis' house at the time the murder was perpetrated, which are herewith transmitted. I cannot conceive that the Government of the United States will for a moment hesitate in affording its sanction and assistance in apprehending and delivering up Dockstader and Robinson, who were the only persons concerned with Dixon in the murder.

(Memo.)

The late John Dixon, who headed a gang of marauders composed of the undermentioned persons, was a native of the United States of America, but resided in Upper Canada for several years prior to the commencement of the present war, where he married the daughter of an U. E. Loyalist. He fled from Long Point to Buffalo in 1813, when the troops of the United States occupied Fort George and the Niagara frontier. From the unsettled state of the coast of Lake Erie between Dover and Fort Erie, this gang have been enabled to make repeated incursions in this part of the Province, where they have plundered several families and have frequently fired upon the inhabitants. His last act was the murder of Captain Francis, in the perpetration of which, it appears from the annexed deposition, he was assisted by two other men—Henry

Dochstader, a Canadian, and John Robinson, supposed to be a citizen of the United States.

Names of Dixon's Associates.

Murderers { John Dixon, born in the United States.
Henry Dochstader, a Canadian.
John Robinson, United States.

Simon Maybee, born in United States.
Samuel Green, born in United States.
John G. Harris, born in United States.
Robert Carr, born in Ireland.
Augustus Parks, born in United States.
John Vandervoort, born in United States.
Elias Long, born in United States.
Barnabas Gibbs born in United States.
John Gibbs, born in United States.
Wm. Corbett, born in England.
Guy Richards, born in the United States.

The above persons have all been residents of Upper Canada for several years before the war. Dochstader is a half Indian, born in Upper Canada.

THOS. TALBOT.

Long Point, 4th December, 1814.

Personally appeared before us, George C. Salmon and Thos. Bowlby, Esqrs., two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the London District of Upper Canada, Elizabeth Dixon, who being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith that John Dixon, her husband, left this country and went to the United States since the commencement of this war, and that she followed him to the neighborhood of Buffalo: that during the time she was at that place, her husband John Dixon, John Robinson, and Henry Dochstader passed over into Canada together, and that she heard them say they were determined to take the lives of Col. Thos. Talbot, Capt. Wm. Francis, Thomas Francis, and William Drake. That sometime about the first day of November last they returned to the house of her husband, John Dixon, near Buffalo, that John Dixon was wounded and died a few hours after he reached his house: that she heard them say that they had killed Capt. Francis and burnt his house and him in it; that she had seen also at the house of her husband, near Buffalo, several persons who had left this Province and remembers seeing the following persons: Eber Decew, John Vandervoort, John Van Allen, John Gibbs, Barney

Gibbs, Martin Burnam, Guy P. Richards, George Wolfe, John Kendrick and Simon Mabee, and that she was at her husband's funeral, and a few days after she left the United States and came into this Province.

her
(Sgd.) ELIZABETH (X) DIXON.
mark.

Sworn before us this 3d December, 1814.

(Sgd.) GEORGE C. SALMON, J. P.
THOS. BOWLBY, J. P.

Personally appeared before us, George C. Salmon and Thomas Bowlby, Esqrs., two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the London District and Province of Upper Canada, John Dennis, Jane Dennis and Sophia Dennis, who, being duly sworn, make oath and say that they are now living on a farm which belonged to the late Captain Wm. Francis, and have lived on the same since the month of April last; that during that period they have frequently heard of a gang of robbers called Dixon's party, that sometime about the middle of the month of October last three men came to their house at about ten o'clock in the night, armed, and asked if Captain Francis was there: that one of the deponents, Jane Dennis, told them to go to his house and look, (meaning the building formerly occupied by the said Captain Francis): that in the meantime Captain Francis, who was in bed when they first came to the house, got up and walked over the floor, by which means these deponents suppose they discovered him; that one of the party called to him and asked if he was there: that Captain Francis replied and asked what they wanted of him; that they replied that they wanted to kill him; that Captain Francis requested of them not to take his life and that he would go with them if they would only spare his life; that they heard the report of a gun out of the door, and heard something fall on the floor above stairs where Captain Francis was: that one of the party took a stick which was on fire and went upstairs, and when he came down heard him tell the rest of the party that Captain Francis was dead and with his hands showed on his head where he had been shot; that they left the corpse in the house and burned the house; that they refused to let the deponents take the body out of the house or bury him. That they said it was lucky for Thomas Francis that he was not there or he should have met the same fate, and that there were some people in this Province should meet the

same fate also; and that the deponents verily believed that the party consisted of John Dixon, Henry Dochstader, but they cannot tell, neither do they know, who the third person was.

(Sgd.) JOHN DENNIS,
her
JANE (X) DENNIS,
mark
her
SOPHIA (X) DENNIS.
mark

Sworn before us this 3rd day of December, 1814.

(Sgd. GEORGE C. SALMON, J. P.,
THOS. BOWLBY, J. P.

Colonel Talbot to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey.

MAJOR SALMON'S, 7th December, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—I hasten to communicate to you the following information, which I have this day received from three respectable farmers of the neighbourhood of Amherstburg, who have found it necessary to desert their homes from an apprehension of being taken up by the enemy and sent to Chillicothe. They left the new settlement (12 miles this side of Amherstburg) the 26th of last month. The troops under General McArthur had, it was understood, returned to Kentuckey, leaving 600 men, chiefly militia of Kentuckey and Ohio, who are drafted for six months service. This force is distributed to the different forts on the Detroit, but much the larger proportion occupied the new fort that the enemy have erected at Amherstburg, where every exertion is used to render it strong. The troops have been on very short allowance of provisions, some weeks without bread, and at the time of my informers leaving that part of the country the enemy had strong detachments out collecting by force the provisions in the different settlements within the limits described in Col. Miller's proclamation, which I enclose, it having been taken down from the place of its exhibition by one of the party now arrived. They further state that it was current at Detroit that the officer commanding had reported to the Government of the United States, that no supplies of provisions would be required from that country, as the part of Canada under his control could furnish a sufficiency for the troops occupying Detroit and the western frontier of Canada. The confidential person that I mentioned in my last letter to you as having sent to the westward, I do not expect to return for a fortnight. He will, I am convinced, bring an accurate report of the state of

things in that direction, but I fear that they will be as unfavorable as the present.

There is some appearance of winter setting in. I hope it may be the case, which will enable me to proceed for Montreal.

Lieutenant-Colonel James to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey.

BURLINGTON, 11th December, 1814.

SIR,—I have been honored by your letter of the 29th ulto., and as the recommendation of a Staff Adjutant for this post does not meet with the approbation of Lieutenant-General Drummond, it will afford me great pleasure if by a continuance of my exertion the several duties are discharged to his satisfaction.

A very well known loyal subject, a Mr. John Stockwell, who lives fourteen miles on this side Malden, came here yesterday and informed me that he left home on the 27th ult., at which period the enemy were very busily employed in throwing up a work and stockading a small point near Malden, under the impression that the English would pay them a visit very soon. He states that the enemy at present are very few at Malden and not more than 200 at Detroit, and those barely coming under the denomination of soldiers. Every man that could be relied on has been sent to the southward, Americans as well as Indians; the former are actively employed in carrying off all the corn in that part of Mr. Stockwell's neighborhood, and occasionally in driving away the cattle. He decidedly states that General McArthur's force in the first instance, and before they crossed the Thames, to amount to nine hundred men, but six hundred only entered this country, the other three hundred having deserted in two days.

Mr. Stockwell requests it to be made known to General Drummond his entire knowledge of the country, and confidence that he can at any time conduct a considerable force unperceived to the enemy's works. He has also requested I would state the serious injury arising from the information given to the enemy by a number of men, (Americans,) settled near to him, and who are their agents for corn and cattle, and expresses an earnest desire that they may be removed, which he himself is ready to do with a small party of Indians only.

Report of a Meeting of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

At a meeting of Directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* holden at the Chief Justice's on the 22d December, 1814:

PRESENT.

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.
The Honble Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

Directors:—

The Honble Wm. Campbell.
The Revd. Doctor Strachan.
Wm. Chewett, Esqr.
Grant Powell, Esqr.
Wm. Allan, Esqr.
Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary.*

The President read the following letter, from General Drummond:

QUEENSTON, 1st January, 1814.

SIR,—When shortly after my being appointed to the command of this Province, on visiting the Niagara Frontier, I was shocked beyond measure at beholding the desolation that had been spread over the once flourishing village of Niagara by an atrocious and sacreligious enemy. Every feeling of just resentment was exerted against a Government that could sanction such an act so unprovoked and inhuman, and when I reflected that the innocent and unfortunate inhabitants were driven from their houses to undergo all the severities of a most inclement winter, retributive justice demanded of me a speedy retaliation on the opposite shore of America, and you are not unacquainted with the result of my determination.

As the principal sharer in the immense stores that have been captured in the important fortress of Niagara, I beg leave, Sir, to subscribe my portion of the prize money towards relieving the distresses of those persons who inhabited the late village of Niagara as well as the frontier in its vicinity, and I place every reliance on the benevolent and patriotic exertions of yourself and other gentlemen, members of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* of Upper Canada, for discovering such of them as stand in the most immediate need of assistance, in order that it may with as little delay as possible be administered to them, after the distribution of prize money shall have been made.

The treasurer then laid before the board a letter which he had received from Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, enclosing the sum of two hundred pounds, provincial currency, being the amount of the annual subscription of His Honor Lieutenant-General Drummond, and one hundred and sixty pounds of like currency, being his proportion of the first division of the Niagara prize money, the whole

of which he has been pleased to dedicate to the service of the institution.

KINGSTON, 4th December, 1814.

SIR,—I have received the truly gratifying commands of Lieutenant-General Drummond to remit to you the accompanying sum of three hundred and sixty pounds, Halifax currency, which His Honor requests that you will have the goodness to place to the credit of the Loyal and Patriotic Fund of Upper Canada, two hundred pounds thereof being the amount of His Honor's annual subscription, and one hundred and sixty that of his proportion of the first dividend of the Niagara prize money.

The Lieutenant-General regrets that this latter sum should have fallen so very far short of his expectations, but he trusts the next dividend will afford him a share better worth the acceptance of the society, for the truly laudable and benevolent purposes of so patriotic and charitable an institution.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

C. FOSTER,

Military Secretary.

At a meeting of the Directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chambers of the Chief Justice on the 21st day of January, 1815:

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.

Directors:—

Major Allan.

John B. Robinson.

The Revd. Doctor Strachan.

Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary.*

Appeared, Jacob Wood, from the County of Oxford, and produced a certificate from Major Bowen, stating that he accompanied George Nichol from Oxford to Burford to give information of the advance of the American army, and in consequence of which his house, furniture, barn, hay, grain, joiner's shop and tools were destroyed by the enemy.

Resolved,—That the like sum of two hundred dollars that was voted George Nichol be given Jacob Wood, as his services were equally meritorious.

A certificate was also produced from Major Bowen in favor of Henry Lester, Sergeant of the Oxford Militia, stating that he had lost his grain, fences and potatoes by the depredations of the enemy, and the certificate further states that he is a loyal subject and

was always ready to defend the country when called upon by his superior officers.

Resolved,—That the sum of fifty dollars be given to Henry Lester.

Jacob Wood was interrogated by the society, whether he and George Nichol were paroled by General McArthur previous to their giving the British warning of the American army; in answer he stated that he and George Nichol had left their homes on hearing of the approach of the enemy, and so far from giving their parole that they never were in the power of General McArthur or his army.

The Directors put this question to Jacob Wood because McArthur in his official report states it as his reason for burning the houses and destroying everything belonging to these two men, that they had broken their parole.

ALEXANDER WOOD, Secretary. THOMAS SCOTT, President.

(From Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 160-2.)

Swain Corliss, of the London District, appeared before the society and stated that he was severely wounded in a skirmish at Malcolm's Mills with General McArthur's troops, and left on the field and stripped; he has lost the use of his left arm in a great degree, had seventeen balls that pierced his shirt, seven balls entered his body, three of which still remain in it: he has a wife and seven children.

In consideration of his sufferings and services, the society vote him fifty pounds, which, with ten pounds already received, make the whole donation sixty pounds.

(Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 184-5.)

Account of Houses Burned in the Town of Niagara and on the Niagara Frontier by the Enemy, with the Supposed Valuation Thereof.

Isaac Swayze, a house and barn	£ 200
William Dickson, a brick house	1,000
Martin McLellan, house and stable	100
Michael Bellinger, a barn	125
Castel Chorus, do.	125
Thos. Butler, house, stable and barn	200
Johnson Butler, do. do.	350

John Secord, house, stable and barn	1,200
Peter Ball, do. do.	800
John Ball, do. do.	1,000
James Crooks, do. do.	625
George Lawe, do. do.	200
Thomas Merritt, do. do.	400
Reverend Mr. Burns, a house	60
John McKay, a barn, &c.	60
John Symington, house, &c.	400
James Clark, house	400
Ralph Clench, house, stable, &c.	150
John Macfarlane, house, &c.	100
Charles Gesseau, 2 houses	400
Doctor Holmes, a house	100
Doctor Kerr, house, stable, &c.	650
Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, 2 houses	500
Alexr. McKee, 2 houses	600
Mrs. Forsyth, a house, stable, &c.	1,250
Garret Slingerland, near the town, lost house and barn	200
John Eggleston, 3 houses	750
Thomas Powers, 2 do.	1,250
Doctor Muirhead	500
Mrs. Stewart	500
McKean and McEwan	1,000
Andrew Heron	700
William Dorman, McEwan & Co.	150
David Hartman	100
Alexander Rogers	400
Samuel Bunting	100
Children of John Kelly, deceased	150
Peter De Jordan	100
Mrs. Rose Fields	750
Samuel Cassady	150
John Monroe	200
Daniel Secord's house, owned by John	200
Mrs. Wright	150
Estate of Fitzgerald	100
John Grier	750
John Young	1,000
James Crooks	1,000
William Dickson	1,000
Estate of John Emery	1,000
Joseph Edwards	500
Mrs. Bradshaw	150

James Rogers		250
Mrs. Frey		300
John Saunders		100
James ———		50
Estate of Davenport Phelps		100
Colonel P———		600
Estate of Colin McNabb		50
Edward Vanderlip		1,000
Mrs. Hill		500
Alexander Garner		450
Major Campbell's estate		350
Francis Waddell's do.		350
James Clark, sr., do.		200
Colonel Claus		1,000
John Powell		300
Mrs. McBride		300
Estate of John Jones		650
Joseh Adlam		25
Joined the enemy: William W———	250	
Joined the enemy: John Wagstaff	250	
Joined the enemy: John Doty	375	
Joined the enemy: Phineas Howell	500	
Joined the enemy: Samuel Thompson	750	
In Niagara—80 houses, besides barns, stables, etc.		
Elijah Phelp's barn		300
James Cooper's house		300
John Knox's do.		200
—— Johnston's do.		200
Thomas Lundy		300
Philip Bender		400
John Muirhead		300
James Macklem		750
Christian R(iselay?), Frenchman's Creek		400
Alexander Douglas, farm house		400
Henry Trout, ferry		200
John Warren, do.		250
Benjamin Hardison		400
Alexander Douglas, 2 houses		600
Henry Warren, house and store		450
Hugh Alexander, do. do.		450
Jeremiah Kettle, do. do.		150
Messrs. Hamilton & Co., storehouse.		
Messrs. Grant and Kerby's storehouse at Chippawa.		
Robert Hamilton's barns and stables.		

Burned by Accident by our Troops.

Joseph Brown, Niagara Road	250
Mr. Hamilton's, Queenston	2,000
James Rogers, do.	350
John Fanning, Chippawa	700

Burned by Order of the Commanding General.

Thomas Cummings, 2 houses and store } Chippawa.
J. J. Lefferty, a house }
— Morningstar, a house, Black Creek.

A List of Buildings Burnt and Destroyed in Village of St. Davids by General Brown's Army, on the 19th July, 1814.

David Secord—3 houses, 2 barns, 1 mill	£2,240
Richard Woodruff—1 house, 1 shop	300
Widow Clement—1 do. 1 barn	600
Widow Lowell—1 do.	200
Timothy Street—2 do. 1 shop	430
Jacob Lutz—1 do.	125
Widow Secord—1 do.	500
Widow Bunting—1 barn	75
Daniel Secord—1 house, 1 barn	375
Samuel Boyd—1 do.	250
Estate of Thos. Bunting—1 house	200
John Collard—1 house	436
	£5,731

Currency.

(From Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 379-383.)

Minutes of Proceedings by the Trustees Appointed by Lieut.-General Drummond, President, Administering the Government of Upper Canada, to Distribute the Nova Scotia Benevolence to the Sufferers by the War in this Province.

(Extract.)

1816.

June 20.—Left York and on 22nd arrived at Stamford; procured returns of houses burned at Newark, on the line to Fort Erie, and in the Village of St. Davids.

June 23, 24.—Deliberated on the means of giving the best effect to the liberality of the sister Province.

After canvassing various propositions for the distribution, agreed to limit it to the town of Newark and the line to Fort Erie, and as we formed a board of directors of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, and had at our disposal the sum of two thousand pounds of their funds for this district, decided to relieve the sufferers at St. Davids from it.

Agreed to abstract from the list for relief all such as upon good information would receive no essential benefit from the partial relief the fund would afford.

June 25.—Called to our assistance Colonel Dickson, the Rev'd Mr. Addison, Mr. Swayze, Mr. Clench and Major Secord to estimate the value of the buildings and the relative circumstances of the sufferers.

The houses burned at Newark were in number	80, value . .	£30,520
On the line,	18, " . .	6,050
	98	£36.570

The properties of those not supposed in distress £22,525

The money distributed among the remainder, the value of whose properties amounted to £14,045.

Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society.

(Extracts.)

To Mahlon Burwell, Esq., £50.

This gentleman, a member of the House of Assembly, Lieutenant-Colonel of Militia, was active against the enemy on all occasions, and became odious to them. At night they made a sudden incursion on the Talbot settlement, found him in his bed ill of the ague, and dragged him without hat or coat away to Detroit a prisoner, and from thence to Kentucky, where he remained many weeks; his house having been burnt and all property destroyed, and his family driven off. The society, on Colonel Burwell's return, requested his acceptance as a mark of regard P. 237.

Sykes Touseley, Esq., Major, Oxford Militia.

This gentleman had been active during the war, and was marked out for plunder and depredation. From the greatness of his losses the society was induced to order him £60. P. 245.

Daniel Springer, Esq., London District.

Captain Springer exerted himself in defending the Province

by actively performing his duty on all occasions. He therefore became, as usual, extremely obnoxious to the enemy and the disaffected, a party of whom seized him on the 1st February, 1814, and after binding him took his own horses and sleigh, and placing him in it, carried him to Kentucky. Shortly after his departure, his family was obliged to remove to the Grand River. He returned in time to share in the glory of the battle of the Falls. P. 247.

Memorial of Thomas Cummings.

To His Honor Gordon Drummond, Esquire, President administering the Government in the Province of Upper Canada and Lieutenant-General Commanding His Majesty's Forces within the said Province, &c., &c.

The Memorial of Thomas Cummings, Esqr., of the Township of Willoughby and District of Niagara and Province of Upper Canada,

Humbly sheweth:

That your memorialist lived at the mouth of the Chippawa since the close of the American Rebellion, and made very large improvements on his lands, besides a number of buildings, which is now all destroyed by fire and the farm laid waste and is now a common, which by that means your memorialist is unable to support himself and family. The first two buildings were destroyed by fire on the 13th of December, 1812, whilst occupied by the 2nd and 4th Regiments of Lincoln Militia. There was a board of claims ordered by Major-General Sheaffe to sit in different parts of the District of Niagara, which was done, and the board awarded me for the two buildings, &c., which was destroyed by fire, the sum of £909 9s 1½d currency, which sum I have never received any part of as yet. About the beginning of last July your memorialist had twenty more houses, large and small, burnt by order of Major-General Riall at the same place, which buildings I got appraised by two carpenters previous to their being burnt, one of whom was master carpenter in the Royal Engineer Department, which buildings they appraised at £1,570 15s. Halifax currency, as per annexed accounts, making the whole buildings, including the two former occupied by the 2nd and 4th Regiments of Lincoln Militia, to amount of £2,480 4s 1½d currency, which sum is a very serious loss for me to lay out of at this time when I have every article to purchase at the highest rate for myself and family. Your memorialist has spent the prime of his life in His Majesty's service, to wit: seven years in the late American Rebellion and twenty-one years in the Commissariat Department, and is now advanced in years and unable to labor to

support himself and family. Your memorialist prays that Your Honor will be pleased to take his case into your most serious consideration, and be pleased to order him payment for the above mentioned sum.

And your memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Colonel Thomas Talbot to the Committee of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

LONG POINT, 1st June, 1814.

SIR,—In compliance with the wishes of the committee appointed for the distribution of the sum of money appropriated by the Legislature of Nova Scotia towards the relief of the sufferers by the war in this Province, I have the honor to transmit to you for their consideration a return of the loss sustained by the inhabitants of the County of Norfolk when the enemy landed at Dover. I will at all times feel extreme pleasure in executing the instructions of the committee.

A Return of Property Destroyed by the Americans at Long Point, County of Norfolk, District of London, Upper Canada, on the 15th and 16th of May, 1814.

At Dover Mills:—

Robert Nichol, 2 houses, 2 barns, 1 grist mill, 1 saw mill, 1 distillery	£ 5,000	
Daniel McQueen, 2 houses, 2 barns	517	
Peter Walker	8	
James Wattles, house, &c.	77	s10
Samuel Williams	125	
Francis ——	17	10
Abm. Rapelje, house, &c.	112	10
Mathias Steele	73	3
William Drake, house, &c.	439	
Nathan Mann, house	25	
Edward Landen	12	
Isaac Olds	50	
Benj. Meade, 2 houses, 2 barns, tannery	568	10
Wyment Williams, house, barn, &c.	881	5
Jonathan Williams, house, barn, &c.	657	10
Henry Bostwick, house, barn, and office.		
In charge of Henry Bostwick, house and barn.		
Robert Henderson	12	10

At Ryerse's Mills:—

Sarah Ryerse, house, mill and distillery	£2,500	
Daniel Ross	37	10
Henry Medcalf	300	

At Finch's Mills:—

Titus Finch, house, barn, saw and grist mills, and distillery	530	
Silas Montross, 2 houses and barn	571	2
Wm. Dunmeade	25	
Wm. Harrington, barn	125	

Colonel Thomas Talbot to the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

Colonel Talbot has the honor of stating to the Loyal and Patriotic Society, that on the sixteenth of last month the enemy, amounting to upwards of one hundred men, composed of Indians and Americans painted and disguised as the former, surprised the settlement of Port Talbot, where they committed the most wanton and atrocious acts of violence by robbing the undermentioned fifty heads of families of all their horses and every particle of wearing apparel and household furniture, leaving the sufferers naked and in the most wretched state:—

1. Samuel McIntire, a wife, both between 60 and 70 years of age.
2. Daniel McIntire, a wife and 1 child.
3. John Philpot, a wife and 2 children.
4. Ira Gilbert, a wife and 3 do.
5. John Axford, a wife and 5 do.
6. Samuel Axford, a wife and 4 do.
7. William Brooks, a wife and 7 do.
8. William Johnson, a wife and 2 do.
9. Henry Barger.
10. John Caddy, a wife and 2 children.
11. Samuel Guernsey, a wife and 3 do.
12. Sam'l Brotherhood, a wife and 2 do.
13. John Barber, a wife and 2 do.
14. John Mitchell, a wife and 6 do.
15. Mahlon Burwell, Esq., a wife and 2 do.
16. Leslie Patterson, a wife and 4 do.
17. Alexander Wilkinson, a wife and 2 do.
18. James Wilkinson, single.
19. John Fulman, a wife and 9 children.

20. Nathan Baldwin,
21. Robert Burwell,
22. Samuel Burwell,
23. Joseph Phillips,

Wounded at the battle of Lundy's Lane.

24. James Burwell, a wife and 11 children.
25. John Cook, single.
26. Charles Benedict, single.
27. Walter Galbraith, do.
28. Gilman Wilson, a wife and 8 children.
29. Jesse Page, a wife and 6 do.
30. Mark Chase, a wife and 11 do.
31. John Quick, a wife and 2 do.
32. John Parker, a wife and 4 do.
33. Thomas Mathews, a wife and 1 do.
34. Thomas Henley, a wife; both between 60 and 70 years of age.
35. George Crane, a wife and 6 children.
36. Enoch Huntley, a wife and 4 do.
37. Dute Underwood, a wife and 5 do.
38. Elijah Goff, a wife and 6 do.
39. Jarvis Phair, a wife and 5 do.
40. John Carsin, a wife and 3 do.
41. Mary Story, a widow, 60 years of age.
42. Walter Story, single.
43. Stephen Backus, a wife and 2 children.
44. John ————, a wife and 7 do.
45. James Sears, a wife and 3 do.
46. John Crawford, a wife and 1 do.
47. Samuel Crawford, single.
48. Nicholas Lytle, do.
49. Prideaux Girty, do.
50. Richard McCardy, 4 children.

THOMAS TALBOT.

YORK, 2d September, 1814.

(From Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 384-387.)

Pay Roll of the Indians During War of 1812.

The United States to Erastus Granger, Paymaster to the Indians, Dr.

1813.			
Nov. 20.	To amt. pd. Indian Volunteers as per receip'd roll.		$2048 00
Dec. 6.	To amt. pd. as per do. do. do.		972 00
1814.			
Jan. 31.	To amt. pd. do. do. do. do.		948 00
Jan. 31.	To amt. pd. do. do. do. do.		932 00
Jan. 31.	To amt. pd. Indians do. do. do.		1252 00
May 17.	To amt. pd. Indians do. do. do.		363 00
1815.			
May 1.	To amt. pd. Indians do. do. do.		8847 56
May 1.	To my salary as Paymaster to the Indian Volunteers, commencing Nov. 25th, 1813, and ending May 1st, 1815, at $40 per month.		686 66
			$16,049 22

(From MSS. of Col. James N. Granger.)

Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Drummond to Lord Bathurst.

Brancepeth Castle,
Durham, August 9th, 1816.

My Lord,—I beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship that having had the honor of an interview with His Royal Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, a short time after my arrival in England, I stated to His Royal Highness that I conceived the services of the portion of the army which was under my command in Upper Canada at the capture of Fort Niagara, at the actions of Black Rock and Buffalo, and particularly at the battle of Lundy's Lane near the Falls of Niagara, fully entitled them to the honorable distinction of receiving medals. His Royal Highness was pleased to say that he would take an early opportunity of mentioning the subject to Your Lordship, but which has in all probability from the numerous avocations of His Royal Highness escaped his memory.

Under this impression, I take the liberty of expressing my confident hope that Your Lordship will consider the right division of the army serving in the Canadas as worthy of receiving this gracious mark of approbation, as I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion that the preservation of the Upper Province was to be attributed to the persevering gallantry and good conduct of those troops in the above mentioned actions. I earnestly trust, therefore,

that when Your Lordship recurs to the action of Christler's Farm, for which a detachment of the right division under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison was distinguished by this flattering testimonial of their merits, that you will be pleased to consider the services of the army I had the honour to command as fully entitled to a similar reward.

General Order.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 3d July, 1815.

After mature deliberation the court find the accused, Captain Joseph Treat of the 21st Regiment, not guilty of the charge or specifications preferred against him, and do honorably acquit him.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances relating to Captain Treat's case, Major-General Brown believes it to be his duty to approve the sentence of the court. But he embraces this opportunity to say that he has never seen an instance of American soldiers, such as Captain Treat's command, abandoning their officers in the face of the enemy. This is not the character of the soldiers our country breeds. So far as the experience of the Major-General goes, they have ever stood by their officers so long as their officers were disposed to stand by their colors or their honour.

It would appear, however, from the testimony before the court that the men composing the picket guard, commanded by Captain Treat on the morning of the 5th July, 1814, were an exception to the general rule, and therefore he is honorably acquitted.

BENJ. F. LARNED,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

(From "Memoirs of My Own Time," by James Wilkinson, volume I., appendix No. V., Philadelphia, 1816.)

Sentence of the Court.

The court, having heard the evidence and the defence of the prisoner, directed the room to be cleared and proceeded to pronounce sentence.

After mature deliberation on the testimony adduced, the court find the accused, Captain Joseph Treat, of the 21st Infantry, not guilty of the charge or specification preferred against him, and do honorably acquit him.

WM. ANDERSON, Lieut., 18th Inf.,
Judge Advocate.

General Orders.

Adjutant-General's Office,
CHIPPAWA, July 5th, 1814.

A transaction degrading to the command occurred under the Major-General's eye this morning.

Captain Treat's attempts to excuse himself in that his detachment was a return picket, makes the thing worse.

Captain Treat shall no longer serve in the 21st Regiment, nor in this division, during the campaign.

By order of Major-General Brown.

C. K. GARDNER,
Adjutant-General.

Colonel H. Leavenworth to ————

DELHI, January 15th, 1815.

DEAR SIR,—At your request I send you a statement of facts which transpired under my view during the action at the Falls of Niagara on the 25th of July last. By this you will be able to ascertain if my attendance and testimony will be material at your court of enquiry, and hope it may be dispensed with.

On that day the left division of the Northern army lay at Chippawa on the south side of the creek, except the 9th Regiment, which was posted in and near the blockhouse on the north side of the Chippawa near the junction of the creek with the Niagara, in advance towards the enemy. It was my lot to be the officer of the day. During the day the captain commanding picket No. 1 on the Niagara Road informed me that he had discovered the advance of the enemy to consist of one troop of the 19th Light Dragoons and two companies of infantry.

With a glass, which was at the picket, the enemy were plainly seen across the bend in the river at and near the falls. They were at the house of Mrs. Wilson, near the falls, and many officers in British uniform were to be seen. These facts were immediately related at headquarters. I was told the enemy could not be in force, as they had thrown a large portion of their forces across the Niagara from Queenston to Lewiston. It was apprehended to be the intention of the enemy to advance up the river on the American side to Schlosser, where our sick, ammunition and other stores then were. Not having the means either of transporting these stores to the west side of the river, or troops to the other side to defend them, General Scott was ordered to march immediately to Queenston with a view to induce the enemy to recross the Niagara. I was

immediately relieved as officer of the day, and ordered by General Scott to put my regiment without delay in light marching order. This order was obeyed, and in less than fifteen minutes General Scott's brigade and Towson's company of artillery, and Captain Harris with a troop of U. S. and volunteer dragoons, were on their march for Queenston. Having proceeded down the river about two miles and-a-half, we came in sight of the enemy's advance. General Scott now halted his column, which I ought to have before stated consisted, (in addition to those stated,) of the Ninth Regiment, which I had the honor to command, the Eleventh, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (then Major) McNeil, the 22nd Regiment, commanded by Colonel Brady, and the 25th, commanded by Colonel (then Major) Jesup, amounting, in all, according to the best estimate I can now make, to about 700 men. The Ninth consisted at that time of 150 rank and file.

The enemy immediately began to retire before us, but from the information of the inhabitants it was thought they intended to give us battle. General Scott now ordered me with the Ninth Regiment to the left of the road, and to keep within supporting distance of the column: having gained my position, the column again moved forward. After marching in quick time about half a mile and coming to a narrow piece of woods, north of Mrs. Wilson's and between her house and the village at Lundy's Lane, the enemy commenced a fire upon our advance, which consisted of Captain Harris' command and a company of infantry commanded by that gallant officer, Captain Pentland, of the 22d Infantry. The column was again halted, and I received orders to take my position with my command in the column of line. After this order was executed, General Scott detached the 25th Regiment, under the command of Colonel Jesup, to the right to seek and attack the left of the enemy's line. The Ninth, Twenty-second, and Eleventh Regiments now passed the advanced corps, by orders of General Scott, and moved into a smooth field on the north side of the before-mentioned woods and west of the Niagara Road. It was now about half-past five o'clock p. m. The enemy commenced firing upon us from nine pieces of artillery, (two of which were brass 24-pounders,) and within canister distance. They also opened at the same time a brisk fire upon us from a heavy line of infantry, posted to the right and obliquely in front of their artillery. After advancing into the field so far as to have the rear of the battalion or regiment in advance clear of the woods, General Scott ordered "form line to the front." The right of the column being in front, this order was immediately executed by the *echelon* movement of companies to the left. The 22d and 11th Regiments moved in column until gain-

ing their respective distances, formed line in the same manner. At about the same time the company of artillery, under the command Colonel (then Captain) Towson, an officer above my encomium, was moved up and formed on the right of the Ninth Regiment, and by its frequent and incessant discharges highly animated the spirit of the troops. Under this formation the action continued for nearly an hour, when I heard that the 11th Regiment, being out of ammunition and their gallant leader, Colonel McNeil, severely wounded, and all the captains of that regiment either killed or wounded, had retired from the field. These facts were related to me by Captain John Bliss of that regiment, who, though severely wounded, gallantly offered his services to me, as did also Major (then Captain) Harris of the dragoons, his command being unable from the nature of the ground to act. I cannot forbear to mention that Lieutenant Crawford, Adjutant and Lieutenant Sawyer, as well as several other officers whose names I do not now recollect, of the 11th Regiment, joined my command and rendered me very able and essential services, particularly these gentlemen whose names I have mentioned.

Soon after the 11th Regiment had retired, Colonel Brady of the 22d Regiment being severely wounded, and that regiment having also exhausted its ammunition, shared the same fate as the 11th, and many of the officers as well as rank and file joined the standard of the 9th and fought the enemy with a spirit and desperation bordering upon desperation. I regret that the names of these officers are not at present recollected, and that I have not any documents by which I can ascertain them.

Colonel Towson, finding, from the elevated situation of the enemy's artillery, that he could not bring his artillery to bear upon them, had nearly or quite ceased firing, and from at least 20 minutes before sundown the field was contended for by the enemy against the 9th Regiment alone and those who had joined its standard. During this time General Scott sent his aid, Captain Worth, with orders to *advance* upon the enemy with a view to charge him. We ceased firing and advanced with supported arms until the order was countermanded, probably in consequence of the shattered condition of the 11th and 22d Regiments. Throwing forward our right to meet the enemy, who were pressing very hard upon our left, the regiment again commenced firing more briskly, if possible, than before. A circumstance occurred during this time which, though highly gratifying, fills me with remorse to mention, and nothing but the honor of my corps would induce me to do so. The bearer of the battalion colors of the 11th being cut down, I presume those colors had fallen to the ground, and it was the peculiar good

fortune of Lieutenant Otis Fisher of the 9th Regiment to find and raise them into the hand of the standard-bearer of the 9th Regiment, who was at that time Corporal Keniston, senior corporal of the color guard, Sergeant Dewing to whom they had been entrusted, (for want of a sufficient number of officers,) having been wounded and compelled to leave the field.

Major Harris again came to me and offered his services. I desired him to inform General Scott that the rule for retreating was fulfilled. General Scott soon came and ordered me to maintain my ground, and gave me the pleasing information that General Brown was approaching with General Ripley's brigade and General Porter's volunteers.

At this moment General Scott's horse was wounded and rendered useless.

At about 9 o'clock, as I suppose from the circumstance of its then being dark, the arrival of General Ripley's brigade and other reinforcements was announced.

At this moment the enemy ceased their fire and retired from the field.

General Scott ordered all the men of the 11th and 22d Regiments who could be found to be collected and formed into one battalion. While we were doing this, General Scott announced to us the capture of Major-General Riall. The men gave three cheers, which drew on us a shell from the enemy, which passed our line and exploded in the column of artillery commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (then Major) Hindman and blew up a caisson of ammunition belonging to Captain Ritchie's company.

A brisk and heavy fire of musketry informed us that General Ripley with his brigade had attacked the enemy on the hill, with a view to carry their park of artillery. The firing on the hill soon ceased, and the battalion, composed of the 9th, 11th and 22d Regiments, being formed, the command of it was given to Colonel Brady, who yet continued on the field although severely wounded. He was assisted by Major Arrowsmith of the 23d. General Scott's Brigade-Major, Captain Smith of the 6th, and his aid-de-camp, Captain Worth of the 23d, being both severely wounded and having left the field, General Scott accepted an offer from me to act as his aid.

General Scott then formed the remainder of the brigade (except the 25th Regiment) into column and moved across the field in a westerly direction and formed them in line on the south side of a narrow lane, a little to the south of and running nearly in the same direction as Lundy's Lane. I was then ordered by General Scott to find General Brown if possible, and desire him to give

orders for the disposition of General Scott's brigade. I rode on the hill, and the enemy again commenced an attack with a view to regain their artillery, but they were soon repulsed, and I found General Brown, who rode with me to see General Scott. After Generals Brown and Scott had conversed a few minutes, I was ordered by General Scott to take command of the consolidated battalion (Colonel Brady being too much exhausted by loss of blood to command, though he declined leaving the field.) My orders were to march the battalion to the top of the hill and form there a second line. They were formed in Lundy's Lane, with the right towards the Niagara road and their left in rear of the captured artillery. This artillery and the American field artillery occupied the summit of the eminence near the old church. Next on the right of his artillery was the 23d Regiment, and then the 25th Regiment, on the extreme right. On the left of the artillery was the 21st Regiment with some other troops consolidated with it, then the 1st Infantry. General Porter's volunteers occupied the extreme left. The army was thus situated when information was received that the enemy was again advancing, and their near approach was discovered by a sheet of fire from both armies, who were not to exceed thirty yards from each other and nearly in parallel lines.

General Scott, having been absent from us a short time for the purpose, as I supposed, of ascertaining the situation of the enemy, returned and asked me in a loud and animated voice, "Are these troops prepared for the charge?" And without giving me time to answer him he added, "Yes, I know, they are prepared for anything!" and he ordered me to form them in close column, left in front. This being done, General Scott ordered, "Forward and charge, my brave fellows!" and leading the column himself we passed through our line between the pieces of artillery and came in contact with the left of the enemy's line, a short distance past the centre, which immediately gave way. Owing, however, to the darkness of the night, our column had become in some degree irregular: we passed extreme left of General Porter's volunteers and formed our men in line. General Scott again ordered me to form the troops "in column at half distance right in front." This order being executed, General Scott again led the column to the charge with a view to turn the enemy's right flank, but finding that flank supported by a heavy second line, the charge was withdrawn. General Scott then passed through the American line and joined Colonel Jesup with the 25th Regiment on the right of the line, and was there wounded. The remainder of General Scott's brigade were again formed, a small distance from the left of General Porter's

volunteers. This was executed in the presence of Major-General Brown. He informs me that he was wounded at this period. In executing formation I received the most essential services from Lieutenant Cushman, Acting-Adjutant of the Ninth Regiment, and Lieutenant Crawford, Adjutant of the 11th Regiment; Lieutenant Brady of the 22nd also rendered me the most substantial service on this occasion. In my opinion he has merited the particular attention of the War Department as much as any officer in the army.

This formation being executed, Major Jones, Assistant-Adjutant-General, generously offered to ascertain the position of the contending armies and inform me at what point the troops under my command could be led into action to the greatest advantage and without injury to our own men of other corps. Having been dismounted since the first charge, this offer was of the greatest service to me, and most gladly did I accept it. Major Jones then reconnoitred in the most gallant manner, under an incessant fire of musketry, the position of the American line and reported it to me. From this report I was induced to lead the troops under my command to the summit of the hill. Firing had now ceased on both sides. The thickest and most impenetrable darkness prevailed. All was still, and nothing to be heard but the groans of the wounded and dying. Moving forward to gain the summit of the hill, I was hailed by General Scott, who informed me of his wounds and ordered me to push forward and join the 25th Regiment under the command of Colonel Jesup, who was also severely wounded. General Scott informed me he was then compelled by the severity of his wounds to retire from the field, and ordered me, in case the enemy should again return to the contest, to seek an opportunity to *charge* and drive them from the field with the bayonet. In a short time after General Brown hailed me and inquired for General Scott. I informed him that he was wounded and gone from the field. He then informed me of his own wounds, and that I must look to General Ripley for orders, as the command of course devolved on him. I then moved on and formed my men on the right of the 25th Regiment and the extreme right of the American line. Colonel Jesup and myself now had some conversation as to our own situation and that of the army. His command and my own were consolidated, and consisted of all the effective men of the first brigade remaining on the field, which I do not think exceeded 150 or 200 men, exclusive of officers. The men were exhausted with fatigue and want of water. The enemy had retired from the field, but in what direction was not known. From the length of their lines, which we had during the action discovered by our own and their fire, we had reason to believe they were far superior to us in

numbers. To refresh our men on the field would be hazardous in the extreme, as we were liable to be flanked on our left and cut off from our camp at Chippawa. Under these circumstances, not knowing the situation of General Ripley's brigade or General Porter's corps, it was decidedly my opinion that the army ought to return to their camp at Chippawa. Colonel Jesup expressed to me the same opinion. He also directed me to take command of the troops of the first brigade while he went in search of General Ripley for orders and information. Colonel Jesup, suffering the most excruciating pain from his wounds and it being excessively dark, was unable to find General Ripley, and soon returned to me and again took command of the troops, and directed me to find General Ripley if possible, and obtain orders and information as to the intended course of operations. I soon found General Ripley, and informed him of my wish and my directions from Colonel Jesup. General Ripley inquired the strength and situation of the first brigade, and while doing so a person rode up to General Ripley with orders from General Brown, (as I understood). General Ripley then told me he had received orders from Major-General Brown to collect the wounded and return with those and the army to the camp at Chippawa. General Ripley then gave me orders to the same effect, as respected the first brigade. His information and order was immediately communicated by me to Colonel Jesup. He, feeling that the action was over and suffering severely from his wounds, did what most men would have sooner done—he gave to me the command of the troops of the first brigade and retired from the field. He, however, continued near us, and probably would have joined us had we been attacked. All the wounded who could be found on and near the field were put into wagons, which had been sent from the camp at Chippawa for that purpose, and sent off. General Ripley was very particular in his orders that the movement of the troops should be conducted with regularity and order, and so far as came to my knowledge his orders were strictly obeyed. Not a shot was fired from the enemy, and our troops moved in as good order and with as much regularity *from as to* the field, and arrived at Chippawa between one and two on the morning of the 26th.

During the whole of the night, as well during the action as after it, I was impressed with the high merit of General Ripley as a soldier, and the gallantry of his brigade in capturing the enemy's artillery. He manifested on that occasion, while in conversation with me, all that coolness and deliberation for which he has become distinguished, and which was so peculiarly necessary at a moment

big with the fate of the army under his command and the honour and glory of the American arms.

.Having a hope that this statement may appear to the world as an honest relation of facts, I should do great injustice to my feelings did I not mention the gallant conduct of Captain Pentland of the 22d Regiment. Soon after the commencement of the action he brought his company (which had been the advance of General Scott's brigade) into action on my right. This was done in the most *brave* and soldier-like manner. His example and conversation had the most beneficial effect during the warmest of the action and contributed to keep the men steady and active in their duty.

As to the 9th Regiment, which on that occasion I had the honor to command, I cannot make particular distinction as to merit of individuals. Every man in the regiment, from the highest to the lowest, gave me the most perfect satisfaction. They maintained their ground against an overwhelming superiority of force in a manner that has seldom been excelled in any age or country. It has been stated that their numbers were but 150 rank and file when they entered the field, and it will appear from the official return of killed and wounded that 128, including every officer with the regiment, were included in that report. It is due to the memory of Lieutenant Burghardt, who was killed at the close of the action, to say that he particularly distinguished himself by continuing to do his duty in the most able manner after being severely wounded in the left side, at the commencement of the action; although he bled freely and was advised by me several times to go to the rear, he declined to do so and continued with me until he was shot through the breast in the last charge.

On the morning of the 26th, at about 7 or 8 o'clock, Colonel Gardner, Adjutant-General, came to me with an order to make a field report stating the strength of the first brigade, and to prepare them to march and take possession of the field of battle immediately. I immediately took measures to ascertain the strength of the several regiments. The 9th Regiment I counted myself, and recollect its effective force was 64 men. The strength of the other regiments I do not recollect. My impression now is that the whole strength of the brigade, exclusive of attendants on the wounded and the details for guard then on duty, did not exceed 500 or 600 men. The troops were formed and took up the line of march at about nine o'clock. After crossing the Chippawa, I received orders from General Ripley to take possession of the works at Chippawa with the first brigade, which was done by bridging the ditch on the south side of the breastworks, thereby making a platform for the men to stand upon.

From what I saw of our forces, which I do not think at that time exceeded 1,500 or 1,600 men, and from what I had seen of the enemy's force the preceding evening, I did think it the most consummate folly to attempt to regain possession of the field of battle, and every officer with whom I conversed, among whom were many of the first distinction, expressed their astonishment at such an attempt and their surprise that every exertion was not made immediately to take up the line of march for Fort Erie. The troops, however, recrossed the Chippawa at about 12 o'clock, and took up the line of march for Fort Erie. We arrived and encamped in good order in the field opposite the Black Rock ferry on the evening of the 26th July.

The march from Chippawa to Fort Erie was made in the most perfect order, nor was anything left behind us which could be of any advantage to the enemy.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs. Volume I., Appendix No. IX.)

Evidence of Captain MacDonald.

William McDonald, Captain in the 19th Regiment of United States Infantry, being produced and sworn as a witness by General Ripley, testified:

That in the campaign of 1814, before and during the battle of Bridgewater near Niagara, he was acting aid to Brigadier-General Ripley. On the morning of the 25th of July, the army under Major-General Brown was encamped on the upper side of Chippawa Creek. Many of the men were that day engaged in washing, and about half an hour before sunset were still out when a firing was heard, which they in camp ascribed to General Scott's being engaged with the enemy, as he had marched out with his brigade about two hours before.

When General Scott first marched out it was the general impression that he had done so for the purpose of parade and drill. Our army at this time consisted of two brigades of regular troops, commanded by Brigadier-Generals Scott and Ripley, and a small corps of 500 or 600 volunteers under General Porter.

The total of General Ripley's brigade may have amounted to about 900—the effectives from 700 to 800. The day before, at Queenston Heights, he recollected hearing General Scott say that his brigade contained about the same number, perhaps rather less.

About the 16th of July, they had intelligence that General Riall of the British army lay at 10 and 12 Mile Creek with 1500 men. According to the general impression, he had a fortified

encampment. To the best of his knowledge no precise information was received of the force and position of the enemy between the 16th and 25th of July.

On the day last mentioned, the proportion of those who formed the washing parties and scattered men of the camp amounted in the second brigade alone to 150 or 200 men. There was parties from the other brigade also, but he could not state the number.

When General Scott moved out in the afternoon no idea was entertained that there would be an action, nor had they any knowledge of the vicinity of the enemy. The first information they had was from the firing.

In the order of the encampment the first brigade under General Scott rested on the Chippawa, the second, commanded by General Ripley, about two hundred yards distant, with their front to the Niagara and at right angles to the first. The encampment embraced the angle formed by the Niagara and the Chippawa, which at that place formed a junction. Across the Chippawa was a bridge, over which General Scott had passed and advanced about two miles when the firing of musketry commenced. Immediately on hearing it, General Ripley ordered his brigade to be formed. By the time this was effected the report of artillery was distinguished. Soon after, orders were received from Major-General Brown through some of his staff for the second brigade to advance and reinforce General Scott. General Ripley, immediately on receiving the order, marched with his brigade across the Chippawa, and when about half a mile in rear of the scene of the action, it being then near dusk, despatched the witness in advance to Major-General Brown to ascertain the situation of the enemy and what point he should march to and from his brigade.

The witness on his way to General Brown met his aid, Captain Spencer, proceeding with orders to General Ripley to form his brigade in the skirts of a wood on the right of General Scott's. The brigade accordingly continued to advance, and was in the act of forming the line when General Ripley remarked to Colonel Miller and other commanders that to form a line in that place would be of no consequence, as they could not advance in line through the woods, and they were not then within striking distance of the enemy. He added that he would take upon himself the responsibility of moving further on towards the enemy before he formed. The witness left the brigade for a few minutes to apprise General Brown of this movement, but did not find him, and immediately rejoined General Ripley.

The march from the encampment to the scene of action was prompt and rapid, and the brigade for one-half the distance was on

the long trot to keep with the General's horse. While passing the woods in pursuance of General Ripley's determination to advance, the fire of the enemy was very heavy, and their shot and shells fell about us in great quantities, but was more particularly directed at General Scott's brigade on the left, which the second was then in the act of passing. The impression was that the first brigade was at this time suffering very severely from the continued and destructive fire poured in upon them, and General Ripley, in consequence, remarked to the witness and Colonel Miller that he would detach the 21st Regiment, commanded by the latter, to carry the enemy's artillery, adding that unless this was done they would destroy our whole force or compel us to fall back; it was then completely dark, and though it was known their artillery was posted on an eminence, we had no knowledge of their number or how they were supported. The distance of General Scott's line from the enemy must have been between three and four hundred yards at that time, and there was then no firing of musketry from it.

After General Ripley's suggestion to Colonel Miller, the latter immediately made dispositions to execute it,—displayed his regiment by forming a line on the left of the road nearly fronting the enemy's artillery. General Ripley, at the same time he gave the order for the 21st to storm the battery by an attack in front, directed the 23d to form in column and march against the enemy's flank. About the time the 21st was preparing to move as directed, the witness met General Brown, who enquired for General Ripley and asked what disposition he had made; the witness informed him; he approved of it, appeared quite elated by the intelligence, and accompanied him to General Ripley. Some conversation took place between them, and in a very few minutes both battalions were in motion, the 21st commanded by Colonel Miller, the 23rd by Major McFarland but led by General Ripley in person. While the 23rd was advancing to operate against the enemy's flank, and about 150 yards distance from the height, they received a fire in front from perhaps 50 or 60 musketry, which threw them into confusion for a few minutes and caused them to fall back about 50 or 60 yards. The regiment, however, speedily recovered and formed into column sooner than he had ever known one formed for parade though perhaps not with equal accuracy.

Some difficulty occurred in forming the platoons in consequence of their having been broken, but their numbers were guessed and wheeled into column with a view to despatch and to facilitate the movement. The whole was accomplished under the particular direction and immediate agency of Brigadier-General Ripley. His exertions to effect it were very great, and no one could be more

active than he was. The whole interval from the moment the fire was received in front until the actual reorganization of the column in readiness to advance did not exceed five minutes. They then marched directly and displayed upon the enemy's flank. While this was performing, Colonel Miller had advanced, pursuant to his orders, against the front, and succeeded in carrying the enemy's battery, consisting of seven pieces of artillery, to wit: two brass twenty-fours and smaller ones. Having passed the position where the artillery had been planted, Colonel Miller again formed his line facing the enemy, and engaged them within twenty paces distance. There appeared a perfect sheet of fire between the two lines. While the 21st was in this situation, the 23rd attacked the enemy's flank, and advanced within twenty paces of it before the first volley was discharged: a measure adopted by command of General Ripley that the fire might be effectual and more completely destructive. The movement compelled the enemy's flank to fall back immediately, by descending the hill out of sight; upon which the firing ceased. Prior to the fire of the 23rd, the enemy were closing in upon Colonel Miller's command, which appeared to be hard pressed, and, as he conceived, was recoiling, the force opposed amounting to about double his number, but, by the prompt aid of the 23rd, the heights were gained and cleared of the enemy. After this was achieved, the 21st and 23rd formed in line by order and under the direction of General Ripley, leaving the batteries which had been carried in the rear. While thus circumstanced, a detachment of the 1st Regiment, which consisted of from 100 to 200, and had remained in the rear, joined them on the heights, and was by General Ripley formed into the line. He could not say what had detained the above detachment so long from the scene of action.

Shortly after the line was formed, General Ripley sent him to ask General Brown whether the captured artillery should not be removed off the field towards Chippawa. The witness met General Brown ascending the hill, and delivered his message. The latter replied there were matters of more importance to attend to at that moment, and he should see General Ripley himself. He appeared highly elated, and rode with him to General Ripley, but the witness did not hear the conversation which passed. The heights thus gained were a very commanding position, and contained all the enemy's artillery, capable of enfilading in every direction. While the second brigade thus occupied on the heights, General Scott's brigade was about three hundred yards distant, and no enemy between them. The firing from it had by this time nearly ceased.

After General Brown's interview with General Ripley, he left

the hill as the witness understood in search of General Scott. The 25th Regiment then joined the second brigade, was formed on the right nearly at right angles to the 23rd Regiment, its left resting on Towson's artillery, and disposed so as to flank the enemy in case they attacked. The artillery under command of Major Hindman and Captain Towson had come up but a few minutes before, in consequence of General Ripley's request communicated by the witness to Major Hindman and complied with by him.

While General Ripley's line was thus formed on the eminence, the enemy advanced upon it in considerable force, out-flanking its right and left, and far exceeding it in numbers. On finding them approaching, General Ripley ordered the brigade to reserve its fire until the enemy's bayonets should touch, in preference to firing first. This was done with a view to observe the flash of their muskets, and take aim by the assistance of their light. The order was obeyed. The enemy advanced within ten or twelve yards of our right, composed of the 23rd Regiment. After receiving their fire, we returned it; the action then became general. A tremendous conflict ensued for about twenty minutes, at the expiration of which the enemy gave way, and again fell back out of sight. We having much the advantage of ground, the enemy generally fired over our heads, but the continual blaze of light was such as to enable us distinctly to see their buttons. An interval of half an hour followed, when the enemy advanced a second time, nearly in the same manner, attacked precisely at the same point, but did not approach so near before the firing commenced. Our left had by this time been thrown forward by order of General Ripley, and the line formed nearly parallel, with the addition of General Porter's volunteers on the left, and General Scott with the three remaining battalions on the right, but the latter were so situated as not to be engaged. The contest was more severe, and, he thinks, longer continued than the last. The same precautions were enjoined by General Ripley with respect to his men reserving their fire, and the reception of the enemy was equally as warm. Some part of our right and left gave way, but our centre, composed of the 21st Regiment, stood firm, with the exception of some platoons which also fell back. The enemy were repulsed, and retired again from the contest. General Ripley, in person, rallied the detachments which gave way on the right, and succeeded in bringing them back into action before the retreat of the enemy. An interval not to exceed three-quarters of an hour ensued, during which all was darkness and silence, scarce interrupted by a breath of air. The men had neither water nor whiskey to refresh themselves after the fatigues they had endured.

The court adjourned to Wednesday, 15th March, 1815, 11 o'clock a. m.

Troy, March 15th, 1815.

The court convened pursuant to adjournment. The same members present.

The examination of Captain McDonald being resumed, he stated that at the expiration of the interval last mentioned, the enemy advanced a third time, to recover their artillery. It was our impression that they had been reinforced, and this was confirmed by the prisoners who were taken at the time. The advance of the enemy was similar to the two preceding ones, and the fire was again opened by their line. General Ripley's brigade again reserved their fire, as before. The duration and order of the conflict, its result and the retreat of the enemy, were in all essential points similar to the last.

In every attack the the enemy was repulsed. General Ripley made every possible exertion to inspire and encourage his troops, exposed his person during the hottest fire of the enemy, and, as he considered, more than was necessary. The witness several times endeavored to prevail upon him to retire, but without effect. His perseverance was unremitted, sometimes acting as file closer as well as commander. He gave his orders with perfect coolness and deliberation, and attended as far as possible to their proper execution. The witness never knew him more collected.

General Ripley's position was never more than ten or twelve paces in rear of his line. He received two balls through his hat, and his horse was wounded during the several encounters. He, Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas, and the witness, were the only mounted officers of the second brigade.

After the last attack, the second brigade for three-fourths or one-half an hour remained on the hill with very little change of position: its left was perhaps thrown back. In the interim General Ripley dispatched the witness with orders to General Porter to send fifty or one hundred volunteers of his command, directing them to report to Colonel McRae and remove the captured artillery from the heights to the camp on the Chippawa. He delivered the message, saw the volunteers detached and marched on the hill. Owing to there being no drag-ropes for artillery, no horses on the ground, and the guns being unlimbered, it was found impracticable to remove them, and the volunteers were then employed in removing the wounded. Prior to the attempt to remove the captured

pieces he saw no artillery corps on the ground, they having retired in consequence of their ammunition being expended, and some of their caissons blown up by the enemy's rockets and shells.

On the return of the witness after communicating the preceding order to General Porter, preparations were made for the second brigade to retire, agreeable to orders from General Brown, as General Ripley at that time informed him. He also stated that Generals Brown and Scott were both wounded and had left the field. Our army accordingly retired unmolested, and it was his impression at the time that the whole column did not exceed 700 when the retrograde movement was made. It was understood that vast numbers were employed in carrying off the wounded. Others had given out for want of water. When the second brigade marched to the field of battle they met a considerable number of the first brigade returning to camp, some slightly wounded, others carried off by those who were uninjured. Many wounded were left on the ground after the battle: they being scattered over a considerable extent and the night dark, it was impossible to find them. He does not think any wounded of Brigadier-General Ripley's brigade were left, unless those who attempted to get off without assistance and failed.

When General Ripley gave the order for the army to retire, he directed the several commanders of battalions to collect all the wounded, and in the interval before retiring he used every exertion to have this order properly executed.

While the army was moving back and afterwards, he knows of no other measures being taken to furnish horses, supply drag-ropes, and bring off the artillery which remained on the heights, with the exception of the smaller ones, which had been rolled down the hill.

About 12 o'clock at night the army regained their camp. The witness added that the pickets and washing parties were not brought up, nor at all engaged during the action. Shortly after the return to camp, about one o'clock, General Brown directed Brigadier-General Ripley ———

The General Order dissolving the court, which follows, was at this period of the investigation received by the president, and no further testimony was heard.

The undersigned officers, who served in General Ripley's brigade at the battle of Bridgewater, do certify on honour that the narrative given in the foregoing minutes of Captain McDonald's testimony corresponds with our knowledge and recollection of the conduct of

General Ripley and the operations of his brigade during the action.

ALBANY, March 17th, 1815.

N. S. CLARKE,
Captain and Brigade-Major, 2d Brigade.

LIEUTENANT JNO. P. LIVINGSTON,
Adjutant 23rd Infantry.

JOHN W. HOLDING,
Lieutenant and Brigade-Major to General Miller, and Adjutant of 23rd Infantry at the Battle of Bridgewater.

General Order.

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
4th March, 1815.

The Court of Enquiry, of which Major-General Dearborn is President, which was ordered to investigate the conduct of Brigadier-General Ripley during the last campaign, is discharged from that service.

The Congress of the United States having approved his conduct by a highly complimentary resolve, and the President being pleased to express his favorable opinion of the military character of General Ripley, he will honorably resume his command.

By order,
D. PARKER,
A. and I. General.

(From Wilkinson's Memoir, Volume I., Appendix X.)

Brigadier-General Miller to ————

FORT ERIE, Sept. 4th, 1814.

SIR,—I improve the opportunity which a short indulgence from duty allows of hastily communicating to you the occurrences of the action of the 25th, and the present situation of the army, which is closely invested by the enemy at this post.

On the 25th, General Scott was detached from our position at Chippawa by General Brown with directions to occupy Queenston. He marched with his own brigade, and in two hours the sound of his musketry informed us that he was closely engaged with the enemy. At this time the 2nd Brigade and other corps were quietly

remaining in camp. All immediately marched, without calling in our pickets and other parties, to the support of the 1st Brigade. We found them at the distance of three miles, gallantly supporting a most unequal conflict. Our arrival was a little past sunset, and soon changed the aspect of the field.

The enemy's artillery was advantageously posted upon an eminence commanding the plain. The destruction which it dealt through our ranks suggested the imperious necessity of carrying the height. This General Ripley directed to be done with his own brigade. The 21st Regiment advanced and charged the battery in front; he led the 23d upon their flank—both these regiments were less than 700 men. The movement was performed in the most heroic manner by both regiments, and in a few minutes we found ourselves in possession of the whole park, consisting of seven pieces, and the enemy was routed in every direction. But his line was soon formed in rear of his artillery, and several most desperate charges were made to regain the ground and artillery from which he had been driven. He was repulsed as often as the attempt was renewed, with great slaughter. During two or three charges, the contest was carried on by the 2d Brigade. General Porter soon brought up his command to support it, and Lieutenant-Colonel Jesup with the 25th Regiment also arrived at the same point. The action closed at 11 o'clock, and we found ourselves in complete possession of the field, the enemy having been driven at every point. We remained near an hour, when General Brown ordered General Ripley to retire to camp. This movement was effected in perfect order, but through some unfortunate circumstance, the trophies of our victory, the artillery, were not carried off. As General Brown remained in command upon the field until we retired, I do not consider General Ripley in the least accountable for this neglect, more especially as, I understand, the order was to retire immediately. Some have shown a disposition to detract from the merit of General Ripley, and to charge upon him the commission of all the errors which occurred. I am, however, fully satisfied of his good conduct generally as an officer, as well as of his discernment and ability in the field on this day.

Lieutenant John P. Livingston, Adjutant 23d U. S. Infantry, to General Ripley.

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 6th March, 1815.

SIR,—On the night of the 25th July, 1814, at the battle of Bridgewater, Major Austin, aid to Major-General Brown, gave orders to Brigade-Major Clark and myself to communicate to Gen-

eral Ripley that Generals Brown and Scott were both wounded, and that the command devolved on General Ripley, and that it was General Brown's orders that General Ripley should march the troops from the field of action to the mouth of Chippawa Creek, where the army had encamped previous to the battle, without delay, and if he was attacked in making his retreat he should defend himself. This order we received at the White House about half a mile from where the battle was fought. We accordingly made all haste to inform you of this order, which order Brigade-Major Clark communicated to you, sir, in my presence. Previous, however, to your receiving this order, there were, I should say, ten or twelve wagons going to the field of battle to carry off the wounded. They had arrived as far as the White House when they were ordered not to proceed any further, but to return to camp. I cannot say who gave the order not to proceed any further.

Colonel Hindman's Statement.

After the enemy was repulsed the last time by our troops on the hill, I rode to the rear to bring up my spare ammunition waggons. On my return with them I met General Brown, who gave me orders to the following effect: "Collect your artillery as well as you can, and retire immediately; we shall all march to camp." He observed that we had done as much as we could do; that nearly all our officers were killed or wounded; that he himself was wounded, and he thought it best to retire to camp. I proceeded to execute my orders; the firing had ceased. When upon the hill with the troops, I inquired for General Ripley to communicate the orders I had received. I did not see General Ripley at that time.

Immediately after this I turned my attention to getting off the enemy's brass 24-pounder, and for this purpose detached Lieutenant Fontaine of the artillery with orders to take it from the field, and afterwards ordered Lieutenant Kinneard of the artillery to assist him. I then rode to the botton of the hill, and after great difficulty procured some horses, and at the same time ordered several waggons to the top of the hill to bring off the wounded. On my return to the gun, some of the waggons having previously reached the hill, I discovered the gun and waggons in possession of the enemy; some of the men and horses were captured. I left the field at the same time. When I reached the troops on their return to camp, Lieutenant Fontaine informed me that I had left him but a few minutes before the enemy charged his little party at the gun

and made them all prisoners. He escaped by dashing through their ranks on horseback, it being dark.

In my opinion not more than fifteen hundred men could have been collected in our camp for battle on the morning of the 26th July.

J. HINDMAN,
Brevet.-Lieut.-Col., U. S. A.

Lieutenant Tappan's Statement.

On the return of the army to camp the corps to which I belonged was stationed at the bridge on the opposite side of the Chippawa, to guard that pass from surprise. Just after dawn of day next morning, the army was put in motion, but the sun had acquired a considerable elevation before our column had taken up a line of march towards the ground occupied by us the preceding night. In this interval justice compels me to say that your exertions were unremitted to arrange, concentrate and precipitate your force upon the enemy with the least possible delay. A variety of causes, however, tended to retard the fulfillment of your designs and wishes, among which the death or disability of many of our ablest officers, the extreme fatigue of the troops, and the dispersed and deranged state of the different corps, may be enumerated. Corroborative of the latter estimation, I shall remark that of the company which I commanded, consisting of forty-five effectives on the field, of which seventeen only were killed or wounded, I was able to muster but nine on the return of our regiment to Chippawa bridge the preceding night.

Having proceeded about half a mile on the Queenston road, I was ordered by General Ripley, in conjunction with Lieutenant Riddle of the 15th Infantry to proceed with our respective commands through the woods on our left, advance towards the enemy, and reconnoitre his position, strength, and movements. His order was executed. On unmasking from the woods we discovered the enemy posted on a height, about a mile in advance of the ground where we left him. His whole battery was planted on an eminence upon the right of the road; his left extended in line, so far as I could see, through an orchard towards the Niagara, by which that flank was undoubtedly protected. His right was in column near the battery, in force apparently more than sufficient, when displayed into line, to extend to a wood difficult to be penetrated. The column and line of the enemy was in British artillery and infantry uniform. I saw no dragoons, (a few videttes and patroles excepted,)

no Glengarrians, militia, nor Indians. The enemy's numbers, which I endeavored to ascertain with as great a degree of comparative accuracy as possible, must have been at least one-quarter or one-third greater than your whole effective force. His position was commanding, his flanks well covered, his centre impenetrable, unassailable, and it would, in my humble opinion, have been an act of rashness bordering on insanity to have attempted an attack on a veteran foe, possessing every advantage excepting zeal, intelligence, and intrepidity.

SAMUEL TAPPAN, 1st Lieut.,
23d Regt., U. S. Infantry.

Report of Captain A. W. Odell.

On the morning of the 25th July, 1814, the American army under Major-General Brown, being then encamped at Chippawa, Upper Canada, I was detailed and assigned to the command of a picket, which, agreeably to the directions I had received, was posted on the lower side of Chippawa Creek near the bank of Niagara River, on the road leading from Chippawa to Queenston Heights, about a quarter of a mile from the encampment.

Between eight and nine o'clock a. m. I discovered a part of the enemy on an eminence near the falls, a mile and-a-half or two miles in advance of the picket. The party was stationary, and continued so during the day: of this I gave immediate notice to the officer of the day. Between twelve and one o'clock, a few of the enemy's dragoons approached very near the picket, and were fired on by some men concealed in advance; and frequently in different directions small parties of the enemy were observable from the picket, of which the officer of the day was informed, who, when he visited the picket, observed that the information he had received was communicated to the General, who ridiculed the idea that the enemy were in force near the falls.

Between five and six o'clock p. m., General Scott, with his brigade, marched past the picket on the road to Queenston. The parties of the enemy in view retired at his approach.

Near the falls and on the ground occupied by the enemy as heretofore mentioned, General Scott's advance were fired on, and a few minutes after the action became general. Captain Spencer, General Brown's aid, rode up and inquired, "Where was the firing?" and when informed returned to camp. Having received orders, I moved with the picket to join General Scott, and not far in my rear was the second brigade under General Ripley. The movements

during the remainder of the battle are detailed in Captain McDonald's testimony which, as far as my knowledge extends, is correct. General Ripley was singularly brave and active.

A. W. ODELL,
Captain 23d Infantry.

Brevet-Major Pentland to General Wilkinson.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 16th, 1816.

(Extract.)

General Scott's third position was near a farm to the left of the position, where we halted a short time without firing, Colonel Miller having previously carried the heights and silenced the enemy's battery. We then advanced to Lundy's Lane and were formed in column, left in front, which threw my company into the rear, as it was formed on the right of the 9th Regiment. After being in this situation a few minutes, and before we moved, Captain Spencer, the aid-de-camp of General Brown, rode up to me and observed that with my company I could intercept two of the enemy's ammunition waggons, which had lost their way and was then within our lines. I asked permission of General Scott, who refused, saying there was something of more importance in view, and orders were immediately given to advance, as I thought for the purpose of breaking the left flank of the enemy's line. As soon as we were discovered in passing the church the enemy opened a most destructive fire upon us, which was immediately followed from a different direction, and as I conceived nearly at right angles, which produced a terrible carnage. Being as I was, in the rear of the column, I had an opportunity of seeing the killed and wounded. I cannot tell whether it was Porter's volunteers or Ripley's brigade which fired on us. It was absurd to suppose that any men engaged as long as we had been, without water and nearly exhausted, could stand such a fire; the column was, of course, broken, and fled to a lane on the left, where we were immediately after formed in column, right in front, and advanced a second time. General Scott, Lieutenant Perry, and myself were at the head of the column. We had moved but a short distance when another destructive fire was opened upon us. I was wounded just at the fence, Lieutenant Perry was made prisoner just at my side, and General Scott was wounded in the shoulder.

(Wilkinson's Memoirs, Volume I., Page 725.)

Evidence on Trial of Lieutenant Blake, 11th Regiment, U. S. Infantry.

Colonel McNeil deposed:

"That on the 25th July General Scott's brigade was ordered out to drive back the enemy, as he supposed. He commanded the 11th Regiment, marched, and soon after passed the Falls of Niagara, near which they received a shot from the enemy, about which time General Scott was making a disposition of his brigade. We were at this time passing a defile, very near where we received the shot. The 22d Regiment, which was in my front, kept nearly a direct course, while the 9th and 11th wheeled on the left, nearly forming a right angle with the 22d Regiment. When the 11th was in the act of wheeling, the 22d broke and ran athwart the 11th and broke several platoons considerably to pieces. I was a little in front where the breach took place; I observed it and wheeled my horse in order to collect the men if possible, but the bushes being so near they gained them, which made it impracticable for me to perform that duty, in addition to which my regiment was under a very heavy fire, and I thought my presence necessary with it. I met Lieutenant Blake, who told me his platoon had broke and fled from him in spite of all he could do. I ordered him to pursue, collect, and bring them back. The 11th Regiment was not engaged when Lieutenant Blake's platoon broke. I was wounded in the commencement of the action and retired from the field. It was then dark. General Ripley's brigade had not then got up.

Captain Crawford deposed:—

"I was Adjutant of the 11th Regiment. After the firing of small arms had ceased, the enemy's cannon continued to fire, and killed and wounded many of our men. The brigade was counted off into eight platoons, and the officers ordered to take platoons without being posted. The 11th Regiment, on the left of the brigade, consisted of thirty men."

Lieutenant Sawyer deposed:—

"Captain Blake's detachment was ordered by General Scott to the right of the brigade, where it commenced a fire upon the enemy; the fire continued until a great proportion of the detachment were killed or wounded."

Lieutenant Thompson deposed:—

"That at the battle of Bridgewater, at the time our brigade was wheeled into line, our platoons on the left of the 11th Regiment, four or five of them, or three or four for certain, broke and fell back into the rear into a piece of woods; that at the time the brigade was formed anew there was a great deal of confusion. There was some difficulty in obtaining commands; there were two

commissioned officers, file closers in the platoon to which I belonged ; the officers were not assigned to their posts, but took them as they could find them."

Sergeant Blake deposed :—

"That in the battle of Brigewater, the 11th Regiment broke and retired through the woods. I got a few men collected. When the prisoner came through the woods and joined me, he had collected more men ; we then marched into the road. We stopped there a short time. We then marched into a field the other side of the road ; we stopped there a short time ; it is impossible to say how long. We were on the move to return back into the road when an officer rode up and ordered us to the field of action. We then proceeded and formed on the right of the first brigade. We opened a fire upon the enemy ; the remainder of the brigade were out of cartridges. I should judge we were engaged twenty-five or thirty minutes. The brigade was then formed into a battalion after the firing had ceased, and counted off into platoons. We remained there until the second brigade passed by. We then wheeled up into open column, and marched some distance. I cannot tell how far, and formed a line by a fence. We remained there some time and received cartridges, wheeled again into open column and marched on to the hill."

Corporal Zabine Hubbard deposed :—

"That he was Corporal of the color guard on the 25th of July, 1814. We met the English army at a place that was then called Bridgewater. We were thrown into confusion by their heavy fire, and broke. After being thrown into confusion, I heard Colonel (then Major) McNeil order the prisoner to the rear to collect absconders. This was before we had given any fire to the enemy. We afterwards formed and fought I should say about three-quarters of an hour. I was then wounded and returned to camp. Immediately after I left the line, about thirty-five rods in the rear, I saw the prisoner marching fifty men or thereabouts."

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Volume I., pp. 687-9.)

Statement of Lieut. Shaw, 1st Regiment, United States Infantry.

"The regiment landed from the opposite side of the strait, half a mile above Chippawa, 150 strong. The retreat was beating in camp when the first gun was fired, and the regiment marched without music, in consequence of the lateness of the evening. They reached the camp at Chippawa after the second brigade had marched, got to the field of battle in the dark, when the 21st Regi-

ment was engaged, and, advancing through a heavy fire, fell in on the left of that regiment and the right of the volunteers. The 1st Regiment once fell back fifty yards by order, but never retreated or broke. It was so dark that two or three of the British officers mistook the regiment, marched up and were made prisoners."

Brevet-Major Marston 21st Regiment United States Infantry, stated :—

"That the fire commenced about sunset, while the troops were paraded for roll call."

(Wilkinson's Memoirs, Volume I., p. 690.)

Memorial of Lieut.-Colonel Robert Nichol to Lord Bathurst.

(Extract.)

FAIRSTOCK HOTEL, September 24, 1817.

That your memorialist was employed during the whole of the operations before Fort Erie, and led one of the columns to the assault of that place. That he advised the *mode* of attack on the schooners cut out of the harbor of Fort Erie by Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy, and furnished and transported seven miles by land the boats employed on that service.

That while laying before Fort Erie he was, on the 19th of August, 1814, sent for by Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Drummond and informed that the Deputy Commissary-General, (Turquand,) had just reported to him that he had only ten days' flour for the whole force on the Niagara, and knew not where to get a supply till the arrival of Sir James Yeo, who was not expected before the middle of October. Your memorialist told the Lieutenant-General that if he would give him full powers he would ensure him a supply. The Lieutenant-General assented. Your memorialist, by his desire, wrote the authority which he required, which was signed by the Lieutenant-General, and in less than fourteen days all fears of want were removed and the King's magazines were amply supplied by the local knowledge and exertions of your memorialist.

General Porter to W. L. Stone.

NIAGARA FALLS, May 26th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your favor of the 9th instant, enclosing a number of the manuscript sheets of your intended biography of Red Jacket, a portion of which contain a notice of

the repulse of a detachment of British troops, under Colonel Bishop, at Black Rock in July, 1813, being the first occasion on which the Indians were actually in battle as auxiliaries of the Americans, and the remainder comprising an account of the movements and operations of the American army under General Brown, from the time of their entering Canada on the 3d of July, 1814, until shortly after the battle of Chippawa, when our Indian allies took leave of the army for their homes, and asking for such remarks, corrections, and additions as may suggest themselves to me and as are due to the truth of history.

While I will cheerfully do what you request in regard t the affair at Black Rock, I will not conceal the satisfaction which . .e receipt of your communication has given, in so far as it affords me an opportunity of performing an act of justice, too long withheld, due as well to the Indians as to the volunteers engaged in the battle of Chippawa, by offering in a shape and connection, where, with your permission, it will be sure to meet extensively the public eye, a minute account, (so far, at least as the Indians and volunteers were concerned,) of the complicated movements and incidents of that battle, and thus rescue their characters from the charge of cowardice, then made and since continued not without some success, to be urged against them for their conduct on that occasion.

It is to be regretted that we have no fair, intelligent and connected history of the interesting campaign of 1814 on the Niagara prepared by some one whose knowledge of the views of those who conducted it, as well as of its incidents, give him a right to speak, and whose character entitle him to credit, and that aside from the scanty information to be gleaned from the official reports of the day, and some personal altercations which have been thrown on the public with any other view than a faithful record of historical events, we have nothing to which we can resort but a few catch-penny compilations as much entitled, so far as facts are concerned, to the name of romance as history: and I regret to find that you, for want doubtless of other authorities, have been obliged to have recourse to these books for some of your statements, and have, of course, fallen into errors. The only apology for the loss of style and spirit in the narration would be that the facts narrated were within the personal knowledge and observation of the writer, who vouches for their general accuracy. Although the story of the battle of Chippawa is a long one, I cannot but hope that most of the facts introduced, especially in everything that relates to the Indians, will be interesting to the readers of the present day, who, I think, will consider the number and minuteness of its details as necessary to a full understanding and appreciation of the merits of

the several parties engaged, rather than of the effusion of the proverbial garrulity of an old soldier.

On the 1st of July, 1814, General Brown found himself in Buffalo at the head of a force which, in his judgment, would authorize the invasion of Canada, for which the public sentiment appeared to be impatient. The army consisted of two brigades of infantry, under Generals Scott and Ripley, to each of which was attached a most respectable and efficient train of field artillery, the whole in the highest state of discipline and equipment. To these were added, under my immediate command, a regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers between four and 500 strong, a corps of 600 New York volunteers, (100 of them mounted,) then at Batavia, but who joined in Canada immediately after the battle of Chippawa, and between 550 and 600 Indian warriors, including nearly the whole military force of the Six Nations.

General Brown proposed to open the campaign by the capture of Fort Erie, and thence proceeding rapidly down the west side of the Niagara River, reduce in succession the British posts of Chippawa, Queenston Heights, and Forts Missassauga and Niagara, having made arrangements with Commodore Chauncey for the co-operation of his squadron on Lake Ontario in the achievement of the two last objects.

Fort Erie, situated at the foot of Lake Erie, was garrisoned by 170 men and commanded by Major Burke of the British army. Chippawa, 18 miles below, and then the headquarters of the British forces, was commanded by General Rial, who had there and at available distances in his rear an army of about the same numerical forces as that of General Brown and of nearly the same composition, save that his Indian allies numbered about two hundred less.

In order to form any correct judgment of the battle of Chippawa, (of which it is my principal object to speak,) and of the merits and character of its various incidents, a correct knowledge of the localities and position is indispensably necessary. The Chippawa or Welland, the north or left bank of which near its mouth was occupied by the British troops and their defences, is a respectable stream some 150 yards wide and 12 to 20 feet deep, coming from the west and entering the Niagara on a right angle with its course. Street's Creek, where the American army took its position, is a small stream running parallel with the Chippawa and discharging into the Niagara two miles away or south of it. The Chippawa is bordered on the south by a flat, open plain about three-fourths of a mile in breadth and extending for an indefinite distance up stream. In rear of this plain is, or there was, a dense forest of heavy timber of primitive growth, and the ground so wet and so much obstructed

by fallen timber as to render the passage of it by carriages or horses impracticable. The west bank of the Niagara for several miles above is nearly the same with the south bank of the Chippawa just described, with this single difference, that about midway between the Chippawa and Street's Creek, there is, or there was, a strip of woodland which had never been cleared, some quarter of a mile in breadth, extending from the forest to within some 10 or 15 rods of the Niagara, and leaving between it and the bank of the river an open avenue, through which passed the great public highway, thus forming a masque between Chippawa and Street's Creek, by which the occupants of one plain were excluded from all knowledge or observation of what was passing on the other.

On the 2d July, General Brown, General Scott and myself, who was doubtless invited in preference of General Ripley on account of my intimate knowledge of the country, made a reconnoissance of Fort Erie and the upper parts of the Niagara and concerted a plan for the attack of Fort Erie on the same night, or rather the next morning. By this plan General Ripley, with most of his brigade, were to embark in boats in the course of the night and proceed up the lake, so as to make a landing on the British shore some mile and a half above Fort Erie at daylight on the third. General Scott with his brigade was to cross the Niagara through a difficult pass in the Black Rock rapids and make a simultaneous landing at the same distance below the fort, when the two brigades would advance on the fort in such a manner as to prevent the escape of the garrison until the artillery, if it should be necessary, could be brought over from Buffalo to reduce it.

General Ripley departed according to order, but in consequence of a dense fog the pilots lost their course and delayed his landing for some hours after the appointed time. General Scott, however, with his accustomed energy and promptitude, and aided rather than impeded by the fog, made good his landing at the hour and place indicated, and was enabled, by the assistance of Indians and other volunteers who immediately followed him, so to arrange his force as to prevent the escape of the garrison.

The rising sun discovered the British commandant with his officers viewing with their glasses the surrounding scene, a part of which was the continued and rapid transit of boats across the Black Rock ferry, freighted with artillery, horses, and Indian warriors, destined for their destruction. Whether influenced by the appearance of the artillery or of the Indians, who are held in greater terror by European than American soldiers, the commanding officer soon after midday, and rather too soon perhaps to satisfy the claims

of military etiquette, surrendered the post and garrison to the demand of General Scott at the end of a short parley.

On the same evening General Scott with his brigade and Towson's artillery proceeded down the Niagara, and on the morning of the 4th, having on his march driven in some advanced pickets of the enemy, established his camp in the open field on the south side of Street's Creek, two miles above Chippawa. On the evening of the same day (the 4th) he was joined by General Brown and Ripley's brigade, who encamped a short distance to the south of him. In the course of the night of the 4th, I crossed the ferry at Black Rock with the Pennsylvania Volunteers and Indians, and at sunrise marched for the camp, where I arrived at 12 o'clock. On our way down we were met by General Brown about three miles above the camp, who, on his return with us, gave me to understand that the position of the army, (although doubtless the best that could have been selected in that neighborhood,) proved to be a very troublesome and inconvenient one from its restricted limits, there being but about three-fourths of a mile between the river and an almost impenetrable forest, which was swarming with Indians and militia, accustomed to its haunts, from the British camp, and who were constantly firing upon and driving in his pickets; that he had that morning been under the necessity of making an example of one of his officers for suffering his guard to be driven in, and thereby exposing the whole camp to the direct fire of these troublesome visitants; that it was absolutely necessary for the quiet and safety of his camp that these intruders should be dispossessed, and as his troops of the line were ill qualified for this kind of service, he proposed that I should scour the woods with my Indian force, sustained by the volunteers, and drive the enemy across the Chippawa, handling them in such a way as to prevent their reappearance. He assured me, too, most emphatically, that there was not then and had not been since their arrival a single regular British soldier on the south side of the Chippawa, (an account which was probably at that moment substantially true,) but that, to guard against contingencies, he would direct General Scott to cross Street's Creek with his brigade and be ready in the large plain, (which soon after became the battle field,) to sustain me.

The proposition was of course acceded to by me, and when afterwards communicated to the Indians and volunteers received by them with enthusiasm.

By 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the troops having been refreshed from the fatigues of the preceding night and morning, the warriors, many for the first time arrayed in the habiliments of battle costume, and the plan of march and attack settled, I formed the whole corps,

(with the exception of 200, or one-half of the volunteers, who were left in the camp to be employed as occasion might require,) into single line or Indian file half-a-mile in rear of our camp, with the Indians towards the woods, and then marching into the woods in a line at right angles with the river until the whole Indian force was immersed in the forest and leaving the volunteers in the field, I had only to halt by simply facing to the right, form my line of battle looking towards Chippawa, and presenting a front of three-fourths of a mile in length and one man deep. Having placed Red Jacket, in whose intelligence I had great confidence, on the extreme left, I took my station on the margin of the wood, accompanied by Capt. Pollard, a Seneca chief, whom I considered as probably better entitled than any other to the command, Col. Fleming, the Quarter-master of the Indian troops, Lieut. (now Major) Donald Fraser, my aide, and Henry Johnson, my interpreter. I was also accompanied by Major (now Adjutant-General) Roger Jones and Major Wood of the Engineers, afterwards killed at the sortie from Fort Erie, as volunteers, and supported by a company of regular infantry marching in column in our rear as a reserve. The Indians were commanded by their war chiefs, to whom I had in a great measure committed the conduct of the battle and the march, and were placed in front of their respective nations or tribes and some 20 yards in advance of the line of warriors. Having previously sent out several scouts, we commenced our march by signal, and at first proceeded with extreme stillness and caution. The tribes have signals by which, on the discovery of any circumstance requiring consultation or a change of route or action, they convey notice through the whole line with incredible rapidity, and the warriors instantly drop on their faces and remain quiet until new orders are given. Two instances of this manœuvre occurred on our march, the first unimportant, but the last disclosing to us through the scouts the exact position of the enemy, which was found to be in a range of thick bushes along the margin of Street's Creek. After new orders—changing a little the direction of our route so as to meet the enemy at better advantage—to increase our speed as much as was consistent with the preservation of order in the line, to receive the fire of the enemy, but not return it until it could be done with certain effect, regardless of the fire of others; then to rush upon them with the warwhoop and to pursue, capture, and slaughter as many of them as practicable until our arrival in the open field in front of Chippawa, when we should retire to camp.

We accordingly resumed our march, received the fire of the enemy, and then rushed forward with savage yells, pursued them for more than a mile through scenes of indescribable horror, few

only of the fugitives surrendering themselves as prisoners, while others, believing that no quarter was to be given, suffered themselves to be overtaken and cut down with the tomahawk, or turned upon their pursuers and fought to the last. On the arrival of our advance in the field before Chippawa we were surprised by a tremendous discharge of musketry, and the Indian portion of our line, which was most in advance, was thrown back upon the volunteers and reserve, who for want of equal speed were some distance in the rear. Thinking that this fire might have come from the enemy we had been pursuing, who on reaching the plain had rallied and turned back, I made an effort, and not without success, to re-form my line with the volunteers, reserve, and a portion of the Indians, and, again advancing with caution to the margin of the wood, we found ourselves within a few yards of the British army formed in line of battle and presenting within the same space at least three men fresh from their barracks to one in our attenuated and exhausted line. After receiving and returning two or three fires, the enemy advanced impetuously upon us, when, hearing nothing from General Scott, I gave the order to retreat "*Sauve qui peut*," and to rally in rear and to the left of General Scott's brigade wherever it could be found.

It seems that General Riall had resolved to make on that day a general attack upon the Americans, and in execution of his purpose had marched his whole force across the Chippawa shortly before I entered the woods, and having sent forward his Indians, militia, and other light troops, (which was the force first met by my corps,) to commence the attack from the woods on our left flank, he formed his battalions on the south side of the Chippawa under cover of the strip of woods which separated the armies, with his artillery on the left near the gorge or public road on the bank of the Niagara ready to act the moment the effect of the flank attack should be developed.

The repulse of my command was thus from the main body of the British army while General Scott was yet on the south side of Street's Creek, with an interval of nearly a mile between us. My error, (if it should not be rather called a misfortune,) was remaining too long under an unequal fire, or possibly in attempting to rally at all, for I lost by it besides other valuable men the three principal officers of the Pennsylvania Volunteers. If the Indians are more obnoxious to the charge of cowardice than the volunteers, by reason of leading them in the flight, they owed it only to their greater speed and bottom in the race, for the volunteers retreated with all the speed they could muster unrestrained by any other consideration than a passing regard to the safety of his immediate companions in

the flight. As to myself, I found I could not gain but little on the British battalions, who were in pursuit, and arrived at Street's Creek the moment that Major (now Colonel) Jesup, whose battalion constituted the left and last formed portion of General Scott's line, had reached his position, having thrown down the fence to enable his troops to pass from the road on the creek into the field, and he had scarcely assumed his post, which he did with great activity and address, before the general conflict between the two parties commenced.

General Scott's brigade received the enemy with the most perfect coolness, and with a simultaneous discharge of musketry, which threw them into confusion and soon caused a retreat towards the rear of the field, where they rallied and again advanced, but were again met by General Scott in the same bold and decisive manner, whereupon they retreated with as much expedition as had characterized their pursuit of the volunteers, until they had crossed the Chippawa and destroyed the bridge.

General Scott followed them around the point of woods, beyond which a further pursuit would have been in the face of their batteries on the north side of the creek, without the possibility of reaching them, by reason of the intervention of the river, where he deployed to the left on the ground first occupied by the British, and placed his men on the ground with their heads to the batteries to escape the effects of their shot.

After the first fire of General Scott's brigade, I discovered a splendid horse, handsomely caparisoned but without a rider, snorting and prancing between the two lines, and endeavoring to escape to the rear of the Americans. He was immediately secured by my servant, and in a few moments I found myself for the first time in the day most comfortably mounted, when, riding to General Brown, I received an order to proceed immediately with the 200 volunteers I had left in camp to the support of General Scott, which I promptly obeyed, and, passing in column round the point of woods soon after him and receiving the fire of the British batteries, took post on his left in the same recumbent position. There we remained half-an-hour waiting the arrival of General Ripley, whose brigade had taken a circuitous route to meet the enemy's right and who enjoyed the luxury of a march through the swamp, when we all retired to camp, and thus ended the battle of Chippawa.

This battle, had General Scott been at hand to support the volunteers when they first met the British line, would doubtless have presented quite a different aspect, although I am inclined to believe the result would have been equally auspicious to the American arms. Why he was not there has never been satisfac-

torily explained to me, although I have never doubted that the omission proceeded from the same conviction in his mind which General Brown had before expressed, "that there was not a regular soldier on the south side of the Chippawa," and that my force was amply sufficient to dispose of the British Indians and militia. The mutual ignorance of the two armies of each other's plans and movements led to mistakes as disadvantageous probably to the enemy as to ourselves. The rapid and fatiguing pursuit by the enemy of our volunteers and Indians with frequent firings, and elated with the idea that victory was already achieved, necessarily created some confusion in their ranks, which was so much increased by the sudden and unexpected reception they met with from General Scott that they could never recover, hastened the termination of the battle, and probably rendered it less sanguinary than if the parties had met more deliberately and with a better understanding of each other's views.

The intimation in a part of your manuscript that most or the whole of the Indians, on their their repulse at Chippawa, fled immediately to Buffalo and were never again seen in the American camp, is totally destitute of foundation. That some few of them, from sheer cowardice and fright, fled at the commencement of the battle to Buffalo without stopping, I have no doubt. It is also true that a considerable number more were supposed by our soldiers, for want of knowledge of an important fact, to have retreated in the early part of the action. When the Indians take a prisoner the captors, with incredible dexterity and speed, immediately lash his hands behind him with his own belt, bear him off to the rear, leading him like a horse by the halter and compelling him to move at a trot. The frequent appearance of these parties, with at least one and sometimes two or three guards to each prisoner, passing rapidly through the fields to the rear, led doubtless to a belief with many that they were all fugitives. But that any considerable number fled until they had met a force so much superior as to render it a duty to retreat, I do not believe. It is certain that a large portion of them remained with the army until the eve of the battle of Lundy's Lane, when most of them withdrew, for reasons which, as will appear in what I have further to say of them, afforded them at least a fair apology. Early in the morning after the battle some 20 chiefs appeared at my tent, each accompanied by a young warrior bearing the scalps, strung on a stick curved in the shape of a hoop, which had been taken on the preceding day, having been informed from some source and believing that a bounty would be paid for every scalp taken from an enemy in battle. I apprised them of the error into which they had fallen, refused to examine or count these

unseemly trophies, and ordered them to be buried or thrown into the river, which was immediately done. For the prisoners they brought in, (amounting to some 15 or 18, and among whom were two principal chiefs, the sons of Dr. Carr and descendants of Sir Wm. Johnson by his squaw wife,) they were allowed a small premium. They then expressed a wish to visit the battle ground to carry off the bodies of their friends who had fallen, which in the hurry of their retreat they had not been able to do the preceding day. This was readily granted, with an understanding that Colonel Fleming should accompany them. In the course of a few hours they returnèd and reported that they had found and brought in the bodies of, I think, fifteen of their warriors, which they buried in the course of the evening with the honors of war. They reported also that among the numerous bodies of their fallen enemies they had discovered three still living, although mortally wounded, and that they had immediately despatched two of them by cutting their throats, but recognizing in the third, who was burning with fever and suffocating with thirst caused by his wounds, a former inhabitant of one of their own villages, Johnson had gone to a creek, filled his own canteen with water, and after giving it to his countryman left him to die alone. On my reprobating the act of taking the life of an unresisting man as cowardly and unworthy of a warrior, the only reply made by Johnson, and uttered in a manner that denied the consciousness of having done an ignoble act, was: "We know, sir, that it seemed very hard to put these men to death, but we hope you will consider that these are very bad times."

On the march of the army from Chippawa to Queenston, the Indians, whose roving habits it was impossible to restrain, besides committing some depredations on the neighboring farmers, discovered a depot of some 50 barrels of spirits, brandy, and wine, which belonged to the British army, and was concealed by them in the woods on their rapid retreat. These spoils were all taken from the Indians by the Quartermaster of the army without compensation, and caused some dissatisfaction among them, not perhaps without cause so far as regarded the public stores.

About this time a proposition was made by Red Jacket, and approved by General Brown, to send two young chiefs, who were men of prudence and address, as spies to the British Indians, then near the head of Lake Ontario, where they had retreated after the battle of Chippawa, and endeavor to effect a mutual and total withdrawal of all the Indians from both armies. These chiefs after an absence of three days returned and reported that the proposition was favorably received by the very few of the enemy to whom they dared to make their message or themselves known, and that

measures would be taken by the British Indians to effect its object. And this embassy, of which Red Jacket was disposed to make the most, resulted in the retirement a short time before the battle of Bridgewater of nearly the whole of our Indian force, under a promise, however, that in the event of the British Indians appearing again in the field they would immediately return and join the army.

The British Indians did not, however, appear again or give any further annoyance during the campaign, and yet some fifty warriors, among the most distinguished of whom was the brave Johnson, baited by the pleasure of a military life of which they had now tasted, returned soon after to the army and were very useful auxiliaries during the remainder of the campaign, having been confined with the army in Fort Erie during its investment and performed a conspicuous part in the sortie of the 17th September, and were among the first in the enemy's trenches.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

The Narrative of Alexander McMullen, a Private Soldier in Colonel Fenton's Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers.

During the late war, on or about the 20th of February, 1814, a draft of one thousand men was ordered by Simon Snyder, then Governor of the State, from the counties of Franklin, Cumberland, York, and Adams. Cumberland was to furnish one-half of this quota, and the remaining five hundred was divided among the other counties.

Colonel James Fenton was appointed to command the detachment, and Robert Bull, Lieutenant-Colonel. My brother, James, being of the first class in a company of militia, was drafted for six months. He was 21 years of age and of a delicate constitution. It was thought by a council of the family and friends that it would not do for him to go. My father was at that time an advocate and partisan for the measures of Government, and he then saw the evils of war. I was about two years older and more robust than my brother and offered myself, to which my parents, with some reluctance, consented. The quota from Franklin rendezvoused at Loudon on the 1st of March, 1814. There was two companies of drafts, under command of Captain Samuel Gordon and Jacob Stake, and our company of volunteers under Captain Samuel Dunn. These were all under command of Major James Wood. Wm. McClelland, Brigade Inspector, was to furnish the tents and rations for these companies, but for some reason they were detained, and we remained there for three days amid a continual scene of dis-

sipation. The tents arriving, we commenced our march for Lake Erie on Monday, the 4th, and crossed the North Mountain to McConnelsburg, in Bedford County, where the tents were pitched, straw provided, and we began to assume a military appearance. On Sidling Hill we first heard of the Cumberland volunteers. They had come by the Fannetsburg road. We were a short distance before them at the junction of the roads, an advantage which our officers wisely determined to keep, as by this we were much better supplied with the necessary articles on the road. On the 16th we arrived at Pittsburgh, and, crossing the Allegheny River, encamped on the plains in view of that city. The Cumberland men, coming the next day, encamped on Grant's Hill. Here we received six dollars for three months' pay in advance from the State. The Legislature had granted this in addition to the United States' pay, making altogether ten dollars a month. After a stay of three days we commenced our march for Erie, then a small town, where we arrived after travelling through a deep snow and swampy roads for ten days, with no better beds than hemlock branches and an Indian blanket for a cover. We arrived in tolerable health and fine spirits on the evening of the last day of March, and encamped on a hill east of the village in view of Lake Erie. An old blockhouse stood between us and the lake, and a new one, nearly finished, beside it, with four pieces of brass cannon belonging to the State, making us safe from the enemy on that side. The Cumberland volunteers and the drafts from York and Adams arrived, and the regiment was organized into ten companies of one hundred men each. In a few days dissatisfaction began to appear in several companies, owing to the quality of the provisions. The flour was mouldy and the beef and pork unfit to be eaten.

Desertions began to be frequent, but the offenders, being followed and brought back, were placed in the guardhouse, and generally punished by being marched in front of the regiment to the tune of the "Rogue's March."

About the 20th, Major Marlin with a battalion of regulars took his station at the blockhouses. He was an officer of prepossessing appearance, but of intemperate habits. About this time he made a call on Fenton's regiment for volunteers to go with him to Put-in-Bay to bring the scattered vessels of Perry's fleet and a battalion of regulars commanded by Colonel Campbell. He was furnished with about three hundred men, and set sail for Put-in-Bay in the fleet that had been anchored at Erie during the winter preceding. In about ten days they returned in consequence of bad weather.

Our men, who had not been accustomed to nautical life, were glad to get their feet on solid ground once more. Campbell now

took command of the regulars, who were considerably reinforced, and in the course of a few days planned an expedition to Long Point in Canada. He wanted as many volunteers from Fenton's regiment as he could get. Fenton agreed to go himself, and more than one-half of his men. We embarked in the fleet in the evening, and set sail at dark. The weather was hazy, with very little wind, and next morning we were still in sight and not very far from the American shore. About eight o'clock the wind favored us, and towards sunset we cast anchor at Long Point. The landing of the troops now commenced. A party of British light horsemen waited on the bank till the men came within a short distance of the shore, then fired a volley and galloped off. We remained on the shore of the lake during the night without any disturbance. The next morning crossed a creek which emptied into the lake at this place, and had not proceeded far before they were fired upon by a party of Canadians. The fire was returned, and we took up the line of march for Dover, a small village about three miles from the lake. The situation of this village was pleasant, the houses generally frame, near a beautiful creek with a fine large fulling-mill, grist-mill, and saw-mill. The inhabitants had principally left town on our approach. We were then placed in line of battle, the artillery in the centre, the regulars on the right, a reserve in the rear, and a company, I suppose of observation, some distance off. An order from Campbell to set fire to the houses was now executed by men detailed from all the companies. A scene of destruction and plunder now ensued, which beggars all description. In a short time the houses, mills, and barns were all consumed, and a beautiful village, which the sun shone on in splendor that morning, was before two o'clock a heap of smoking ruins. The women and children had remained in the village and were permitted to carry out the valuable part of their moveable property. A party of sailors appointed to man the artillery killed the hogs in the streets, and severing them in the middle carried off the hind parts, while the head and shoulders were left in the street.

The line of march was now taken up the lake. The army halted about a mile from the lake at the house of a respectable looking German, and as it had been ascertained that the British had no force of any consequence in that neighborhood the men were permitted to stroll from the ranks. A short distance from this house was a pasture lot, in which grazed a fine English cow. Some of us who were farmers had a curiosity to examine this fine animal more closely. This drew a small group together, when a private of Gordon's company fired his musket and broke both her fore legs. The farmer and his family said nothing, afraid, I suppose,

that their own turn might come next, and the officers, taken up in examining some Canadian prisoners, paid but little attention to it.

The sun was setting as the troops re-embarked, and shortly after dark we set sail, expecting to wake in the harbor of Erie, but judge of our surprise in the morning to find that we were not more than a mile from the Canadian shore and four miles from where we started the evening before. The sails were lowered, the fleet stopped and boats manned for shore. A troop of horse, formed on the shore, seemed determined to oppose our landing, but the turning of a long 32-pounder on board the *Porcupine* gun-boat to bear on them, made them gallop off without firing a gun. There was a grist-mill and saw-mill, to which our troops set fire. Orders were then given to re-embark, and the fleet set sail for Erie, where we arrived next evening at dark, generally disgusted with the conduct of Campbell. When we came back to the camp we found that a number of men belonging to several companies had deserted, taking advantage of the absence of the officers. A short time after this a mutiny was set on foot by some designing men, who made the soldiers believe that the field officers and contractors were swindling them by buying up bad provisions at a low price, and that good could be bought if the officers wanted it. Another reason was that they had now been in the service nearly three months and had received but the six dollars from the State, and as we expected in a few days to march to Buffalo and be under the United States' officers, they were told that unless they stood out for their rights then, there would be no use of doing it at Buffalo.

A paper was drawn up and signed by a number, who were resolved not to start without two months' pay. The officers for some reason appeared but little concerned about it. The morning came to start for Buffalo. Preparations were made by those who were not in the conspiracy to start, and leave the mutineers if they were too strong to be forced off. The mutineers had loaded their muskets and had supplied themselves with cartridges, apparently determined not to strike a tent without money. The regiment had been formed, roll called, and wagons all ready to load. Orders were given to strike the tents. About half were struck. The remainder stood, the owners beside them with loaded muskets. Colonel Fenton began to remonstrate, but they treated all he said with indifference. The Adjutant, Thomas Poe, standing beside him, indignant at such conduct, wanted the Colonel to use force, but he declined, and at Poe's request gave him leave to quell the disturbance. The first company, a finely uniformed company of infantry from Carlisle, had been active in the mutiny, but their tents fell before the drawn sword of the Adjutant, and men who appeared

determined to die on the spot, now shrunk like children before one man. The rest followed their example, and in less than an hour the leaders of the mutiny were placed in the blockhouse in irons and the regiment was on its way to Buffalo.

This march was a very pleasant one; vegetation was coming on with great vigor, and the country was fast being settled by respectable and intelligent looking men from the eastern States. After a march of eight days we arrived on the banks of the Buffalo Creek, where we were met by a fine looking band of musicians, who escorted us to the village. This village had been burnt the winter before by the British and Indians. The inhabitants were generally living in sheds of frame lined with rough boards, a temporary protection from the inclemency of the weather. West of the town and between it and the lake was the encampment of the grand army, said to be 2,500 strong. These were commanded by Major-General Jacob Brown. A regiment of artillery was on the northeast. We encamped on the left of the regulars in a piece of bushy ground, which was soon cleared off, making it a beautiful spot, with a fine spring close by the encampment.

Regulations new to us and very strict were now adopted. We rose at 4 o'clock (reveille beat) and answered to our names. We had fifteen minutes to prepare for drill, which generally lasted one hour. Breakfast being over, the regiment was formed, roll again called, guards detailed, and the regiment dismissed for a short time. The Sergeants' drill came next, which generally lasted till eleven o'clock. At two the Adjutant-General drilled, which was then dismissed till nine, when the roll was again called and we retired to rest. The time passed away in this manner, constant exercise, wholesome provisions, and strict discipline soon made our regiment have another appearance.

On the evening of the third day of July the regulars left their camp and marched down to the Niagara River, crossed during the night and surrounded Fort Erie, which surrendered the next day. There was but one battalion in the fort and two companies of artillery. These were brought to Buffalo and from thence sent to Greenbush in the State of New York, escorted by Captain Alexander's company of infantry. We crossed on the 5th. Some out of each company refused to go, and some of their comrades were detailed to bring them by force, which we found to be no easy matter, as they had taken possession of an old battery and stood in their own defence. They were about eighty strong. A treaty was now commenced, and about twenty of them with their leader agreed to come over. The rest we left, our commander wisely considering them of little consequence. The next morning we marched

for Chippawa. The regulars had started the day before. About two o'clock we halted about two miles from the creek, where a large body of Indians of different tribes were preparing to go out on a scouting expedition. One of their chiefs in a speech, which for gesture and strength of lungs I had never heard equalled, was preparing them for bloody deeds. Volunteers were now called for from Porter's brigade. The Indians had started towards a pine wood back of the fields, where we halted. Having lost my sleep the night before—I had, like a simpleton, lent my musket to Lieut. Dick—and lying down in a fence corner, fell fast asleep. In a few minutes the sharp crack of the Indians' rifles waked me. The noise was increased by the quick discharges of cannon and musketry. I ran to Major Wood, who was forming the regiment, and asked him what they were doing. "Fighting!" was the answer, "Fall into the ranks."

I now felt my situation, without gun or cartridge box. I ran to the bank of the river, where a boat was lying which had brought the baggage down the river, and solicited a gun, which after some difficulty I obtained, and soon joined our company. Just at this time I saw the Indians and some of the volunteers flying across the fields towards us. They had received a warmer reception than they expected.

Shortly after they crossed into the woods they came on a party of Canadian Indians and militia, who fired on them. The fire was returned and the Canadians fled towards the bridge, our volunteers in full pursuit. A number of the Canadian Indians and their militia lost their lives in this running fight. Approaching the bridges, they met the British army. A retreat now commenced, with the Canadians and some British regulars in full pursuit. In this retreat Robt. McClelland, a very respectable man of our company, lost his life. Almost all the companies of our regiment lost some men.

By the time the regiment came in view of Chippawa Creek the battle was over and the British retreating across the bridge. A number of killed and wounded lay on the plains where the army had fought. We marched past them towards the bridge, saluted by the cannon balls from the British works at Chippawa, which to us militia was a new but not a very pleasant sight.

After keeping us a considerable time in front and exposed to the cannon of the British works, we were marched back to our camp. That evening we were joined by a company of Canadian volunteers who had entered the service of the United States.

The next morning the dead of both armies were buried. The killed and wounded amounted to six or seven hundred, of which the greater part belonged to the British. Colonel Robert Bull,

second in command, Major Galloway and Captain White, were taken prisoners, besides a number of privates.

About twelve o'clock a number of men of different companies were detailed to take the prisoners, who were all wounded, up the Niagara in boats to Buffalo. I was one of this party. The navigation of this stream up the river is very difficult and laborious. It was dark by the time we got eight miles, and as we were very tired we landed opposite a house on the shore to rest till morning. The owner had left this when the army came down the river.

As some of the men were slightly hurt and we in an enemy's country, a sentinel was set to watch the boat. About midnight my turn came. The moon gave but little light, and the prisoners and our men were all laying quiet, when the sound of footsteps within a few paces startled me. I turned hastily around and saw a large Indian, who when he saw my musket presented called out, "Don't shoot!" He proved to be one from our own side on his road to join the army.

The next day we arrived at Buffalo, where we were detained for eight days, when we returned to join the army, who were encamped at Queenston below the Falls of Niagara.

The river at this town is narrow and very deep. Above the town was a steep hill, called Queenston Mountain, on the top of which was a fort where the volunteers and Indians were encamped. The New York volunteers having joined us, we were formed into a brigade, commanded by General Peter B. Porter. After a march to the neighborhood of Fort George, where we remained two days, we returned to our former camp at Queenston.

On our march up the river, when we came in view of Queenston Heights we discovered a number of the Canadian militia, who had taken possession of our former encampment. On our approach they began to move off. We pursued them for some miles. Being on a flanking party with others our route was principally through the woods. We returned in the evening with eight prisoners, most of them officers.

Next day we marched to Chippawa and encamped. There was preparation making to march to Burlington Heights, but on the evening of the 25th July intelligence was brought that the enemy were in pursuit of us and coming up the river below the Falls. General Scott with his brigade went to meet them, and gave them battle about three miles from the camp. The second brigade of regulars, under General Ripley, hastened to his support, and the contest became warm and bloody. The enemy's artillery being taken about the time we of Porter's brigade arrived on the battle ground, the enemy reinforced and came down the hill directly in

front of us. The brigade was just formed into line, and I heard the voice of Porter saying to us, "Show yourselves men, and assist your brethren!" when showers of musket balls came over our heads like a sweeping hail storm. We returned the fire from the whole line of the brigade. The firing was now kept up from both sides with great spirit, but it was soon evident that there was a great advantage on our side. The ground the British occupied was considerably elevated, which exposed them to the elevation that a musket ball will take in going any considerable distance, while their balls were passing high in the air over our heads. At length the call from the officers to cease firing and march forward was obeyed. I had twenty rounds of cartridges in my box when I went to the battle ground, and when the firing ceased on examining my box I found that the last was in my musket. Cartridges and flints were now hastily distributed along the line, and our brave brigade, blackened with powder, marched forward toward the top of the hill to drive the enemy from his position there. In our march we passed over the dead and dying, who were literally in heaps, especially where the British had stood during the battle.

When we arrived at the top of the hill we came to a thicket where an old fence had been. Crossing this disordered the line considerably, and when through it we found ourselves within a few yards of the British, who were strongly reinforced and returning against us. A death-like silence for a few moments prevailed, and both armies stood still. One of the British officers asked in a hoarse voice if we had surrendered. There was no answer to this question. He asked again. Lieutenant Dick told him that we *never would* surrender. The Canadian company on the right began to falter, and, firing irregularly, the whole body fled back over the fence, the British complimenting us with a shower of musket balls.

A number were killed and others were wounded in this tumultuous retreat. Running about fifteen or twenty rods we thought ourselves out of danger, and several of us at the request of the officers stopped and were formed into line.

Col. Nicholas had joined us that evening with a regiment of regulars, who had been kept in reserve, but now by skilful manœuvres placed themselves between us and the British and kept up a destructive fire upon them until they fell back, and the firing ceased. A murmur which ran through the ranks of the volunteer companies, who were contending for places in the rear, and the groans of the dying was all that was heard for some minutes.

The shattered remains of the brigade being formed, we were marched to the right of the line and near the edge of the precipice

of the Niagara Falls. The cannon that had been taken from the British was at this place. We were formed in order of battle.

This to me was one of the most trying moments of my life. Being warm during the engagement I had opened my vest and shirt collar, and now the night air chilled me. Death, the common lot of all mankind, is generally feared the nearer it approaches us. I felt my situation to be an awful one, and I did sincerely wish that the British army, who were on the hill in view of us, might not come down to commence the engagement again. The British army retiring, our company with others were ordered to haul the cannon taken from the British and tumble it over the precipice. We hauled one and sent it over the precipice into the river.

We then went back and were ordered to haul another, but being tired out and half dead for want of water, the most of our faces scorched with powder, we refused to do any more, and our officers led us back to our place in the lines.

A retrograde march back to the camp now commenced, the volunteers in front and the regulars in the rear to cover the retreat. When we arrived at the camp a number of men who had run off from us during the engagement came back and wished to fall into ranks, but were ordered off by Lieutenant Patton, who had now command of the company. The next thing was to make a speech to us.

He began by saying he was surprised at us for not standing our ground at the bush fence. If the whole brigade had fled, (as they actually did,) Gordon's company should have stood firm.

This was too much. We believed that we had done all that men could do, and this was our thanks. We broke loose on him with a volley of insulting language. He, standing in front of us, with a smile told us were dismissed, and might go to the river and get drunk on the water.

I now learned that ten of our company were wounded. There was a number killed in every company but ours. Thomas Poe, the Adjutant of the regiment, was mortally wounded. He was my full cousin, a man of fine talents, a brave and meritorious officer, and treated us like a brother.

The next morning a scene of distress presented itself to my view, which I hope I may never witness again. I started early to see Thomas Poe, hearing he was lying in a house at Chippawa, a short distance from our camp. Calling at some of the tents as I passed along, I found that nearly all of them contained one or more wounded men, their clothes covered with blood and they were suffering severely. John McClay, the Quartermaster, was wounded by a musket ball which cut him across the forepart of the head and

cracked his skull. He was lying on his back, his face in a gore of blood. The strange, wild look and the deep groan he gave just as I entered drew a smile from me; so accustomed do men become to blood that they feel but little sympathy for their fellows.

Coming to the house at Chippawa, I found Thomas Poe lying on a blanket. He reached his hand to me and told me that he was mortally wounded, that he had but a few moments to live, and told me that he wished to be buried on the American side of the river.

The army at this time was on its march and passed the house, going to attack the British. I had no wish to go with them as I had become satisfied the previous day, and, the officers telling me to stay and attend Poe, I stood in the door and with sorrow watched the shattered remains of only twenty-five out of the hundred that had left Franklin County as with slow and melancholy steps they were returning to the scene of action. In a short time the whole body returned, as it was found that the British were strongly reinforced and were preparing to attack us. Our troops had suffered severely the night before; especially one regiment that the evening before had paraded four hundred men now had but eighty-eight. Added to this, Major-General Brown, the commander, and Brigadier-General Scott, who commanded the first brigade, were both wounded, and the provisions were also destroyed. Lieutenant Campbell, a number of regulars and myself carried the wounded Thomas Poe to the crossing place. Carrying him nearly a mile across a plain, in the the middle of the 26th of July, appeared to exhaust what little strength he had left. I put him in a boat in care of Lieutenant Dick and his waiter. He shook hands with me for the last time. He said to me in a weak voice: "Alexander, you will never see me again in this world." He expired in a few minutes.

Loading the remaining part of the wounded now commenced, and there were at least forty two-horse wagons loaded with these unfortunate men. Their sufferings in this mode of conveyance seemed to be dreadful and their groans were distressing. I was now attacked with a high fever and violent headache, and had to give up my musket and knapsack and take a seat in a wagon, but the jolting almost deranged me. I then attempted to walk, but finding my strength failing and being behind our regiment, I lay down in front of a house in despair, not caring what became of me. The regulars passing at this time, one of their officers assisted me to rise and made one of his soldiers support me for a short distance. I then felt better, and was able to walk without support. It was now dark. We came to a watch-house opposite the village of Black Rock, and I went into it. The night was cloudy and had the

appearance of a storm. There were a number of stragglers here from different companies, and we all lay down on the floor and I soon fell asleep, but an officer of the regulars with some men soon ordered us out. He sent some of his men to conduct me to the meadow where my company was. He gave me a blanket, and I was compelled to lie down in a high fever just as the rain began to come down in torrents. This of all nights I had ever spent was the most dreadful.

In the morning I found myself lying in the water two inches deep. I was so weak that I could scarcely walk.

I now went with the company to Fort Erie. This was a small fort of sods, in which there were many men at work digging and carrying sods to raise the fort higher and repair the bastions.

My messmates insisted on me going across the river until I got better. An application was made to General Porter, and I crossed into the United States, after having been in Canada nearly two months.

I went to the hospital, and Lieutenant Dick, Peter Keefer, Wm. Edwards, and myself got a tent by ourselves. Some time passed, when the British crossed the river and attacked a small body of Kentucky riflemen.

The main body being at Fort Erie, we left Buffalo and went about two miles to an Indian town belonging to the Seneca Indians, who had removed to another about two miles from this, which also belonged to them. The situation of the first mentioned village was pleasant, the houses of one-story and about sixteen feet square, with a porch in front the whole length of the house. A beautiful meadow, orchards and small fields of wheat surrounded the village. There appeared to be about twelve acres cleared land. The Indians had left this village a short time before in consequence of some of their people catching the smallpox. They supposed that it belonged to the village, and left it, with all their furniture and rush mats, which was their bedding.

Staying here one night and part of a day, we learned that the danger was over. The British, 1,100 strong, attempted to cross a small creek. The riflemen had thrown up a breastwork of logs within point blank shot of the ford, and being excellent marksmen and veterans, the British found it no easy matter to cross the creek, and after several ineffectual attempts re-embarked, having lost many killed and wounded. The rifle regiment lost but few, being protected by their breastworks.

My companions now left me. The physician said my disease was the dumb ague. I had a high fever during the night, but during the day was able to walk about, though very weak.

The hospital was intended for the sick and wounded of Porter's brigade. The superintendent and his assistants were from the Pennsylvania Regiment. I suppose there might been sixty of us here generally, though I never saw a list.

After leaving the hospital I took quarters in the jail in Buffalo, which was at that time used as a storehouse.

The noise of repairing old muskets, firing, &c., at this place almost distracted me with headache. Lieutenant Dick procured board for me at the house of a respectable widow named St. John, three miles from Buffalo. Her husband had died some years before, and left her five children to support. They had some property in Buffalo, where they had kept tavern, but during the preceding winter the British had destroyed it all except one small frame house which they left her. I received all the kindness I could ask. Our life was economical in the highest degree, and I believe was a great means of restoring my health. In a few days I visited Buffalo and saw such of our company as were in the hospital. I had the company of Major Wood and Adjutant Kean, a New Yorker, and I soon began to feel at home.

(From MSS. of W. H. MacMullen, Crete, Pa.)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS.

(Copies of the following documents were not obtained in time to permit of arrangement in their proper chronological order.)

General Porter to Governor Tompkins.

ALBANY, March —, 1814.

SIR,—The spirit recently manifested by the Assembly towards the bill for raising volunteers, I presume has destroyed all your hopes of its passing in any useful form, and that Your Excellency will now proceed to raise a corps upon the plan heretofore suggested to and approved by the Secretary of War. Should I undertake the command (which your partiality has offered me) of this corps, it would be with great hesitation and diffidence of my own capacity. But I should be highly reprehensible to enter on so important a command with a force which is in my opinion inadequate, or even with a force sufficient in point of numbers yet so inefficient in its organization, or so badly provided, as not to give confidence of success.

The man who marches to the Niagara frontier at the head of 2,000 volunteers must command success or he will return disgraced, and he that is so ambitious of distinction as to be willing to venture upon this delicate ground, without knowing how he is to be supported, and without being able to make some reasonable calculation of what he ought and what he is able to effect, will verily merit disgrace.

The force which has been authorized by the Secretary of War is, in my opinion, sufficient for and well adapted to the military objects that are likely to present themselves on that frontier. But it should be recollected that it is quite as small as a just prudence will warrant, and that it should be so disposed, organized, and provided as to give it all the efficiency of which it is susceptible. The volunteers, regulars, and Indians should form a consolidated and not a co-operating army. The commanding officer, whoever he be, (although if he deserves his place, he ought to pay great respect to the opinions of his principal officers on all important questions,) should be able to order and not be obliged to request obedience to his measures.

A number of the Republican members of the Legislature from the West, desirous to protect the frontier and to avoid the trouble and inconvenience of reiterated drafts on the militia, and if possible to turn the tide of war in that quarter, propose to meet this even-

ing on the subject of raising a volunteer corps. They have invited me to attend, and will present to you the result of their deliberations. I find that all with whom I have conversed are of the opinion that two or three thousand volunteers can be raised for one *year's* service, but liable to be discharged at the pleasure of the Government.

Should you conclude to authorize a force of this description permit me to suggest :

1st. That the principal officers be now assigned and repair to the different stations in the western district for the purpose of recruiting, and with orders on a given day with their recruits to march to some common place of rendezvous.

2nd. That a suit of clothes for each recruit be sent immediately to Canandaigua, to be delivered on their arrival at the place of rendezvous.

3rd. That orders be given immediately to raise and organize the Indian corps, and that clothing and blankets be also provided for them.

4th. That one mortar and three of the 18-pounders mounted on field carriages now in the arsenal at this place be sent to the westward while the roads are good. They will not be wanted in the first operations of the army, but may become indispensable to the reduction of Fort Niagara.

5th. Orders should be given as soon as practicable for constructing 30 or 40 boats, and a liberal discretion committed to the commanding officer in respect to this and all other contingent expenses which may become necessary to the successful operations of the troops. It is presumed, however, that the staff lately assigned by the Secretary of War to this station will have been charged by him with the disbursement of these incidental expenses as well as with the supplying the necessary wants in arms, ammunition, provisions, camp equipage, &c.

Permit me to repeat what I have before intimated to Your Excellency, that if it be thought proper to assign me to such a command, I would cheerfully undertake it, and no exertions on my part should be wanting to make it successful. But if, as has been indistinctly insinuated, a young officer of the regular army is to be promoted to take command of this force after the trouble of raising and organizing it is completed, I trust in your friendship and ingenuousness to apprise me of it and relieve me of the unpleasant consequence of such a measure. It is impracticable that I should now take exception to the preference given to a man of more military acquirements than I can pretend to.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to the Secretary of War.

CANANDAIGUA, March 27, 1814.

SIR,—The authority which you transmitted to the Governor of this State in February, to raise a corps of volunteers, was not exercised (for reasons probably much better known to you than myself,) until about the middle of this month, on the 17th of which I received his order assigning me to the command, and immediately repaired to this place to take measures for executing it. I take the liberty of enclosing you an address signed by myself and General Swift of this county, (a soldier of the Revolution and one of the bravest and most enterprising men in the country,) who has also been assigned to a command. It would be impracticable to raise this force in a shorter period than a month, and the time has been extended on account of an important election, in which the volunteers themselves will feel so strong an interest. The militia have been so much harassed and so often disgraced that it is impossible to predict what will be our success. Present appearances, however, favor the hope that the whole corps will be completed for the appointed time.

I need not tell you, sir, how much I have at stake in the good conduct, discipline, and successful operations of this corps; and the honor of the Government, so far as it is affected by the character of this force, is identified with my own. The volunteers who engage will well understand what is expected of them, and I believe they will not disappoint our expectations. They will not be controlled by *constitutional* scruples. But we can do nothing without the munitions of war, and I rely with perfect confidence on the foresight, promptitude, and energy which characterize your measures for the necessary supplies of arms, ammunition, camp equipage, &c., &c. It is desirable that the volunteers should be in *uniform*, a circumstance which adds greatly to their ambition. A summer uniform furnished by the public would cost but little and might be deducted from their pay or allowance in lieu of clothing.

Permit me to repeat to you my belief in the expediency of engaging an *Indian* force. The warriors in this quarter, exasperated by the late barbarities of the enemy, are impatient to take up the hatchet. They should be furnished with blankets, shirts, shoes, and a small quantity of cloth for leggins.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to Governor Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, March 27th, 1814.

SIR,—I arrived here four days ago. Have seen General Swift, who readily accepted and appears much gratified with the offer you authorized me to make him of a Brigadier's commission in the corps of volunteers. He has, agreeably to your suggestion, united with me in an address to the inhabitants, of which I enclose you a copy. His name will be of great service with a certain class of people, and he will use all his exertions to get up the force and to apply it to the most effective and honorable service; the more hazardous the more acceptable to him.

You will perceive we have appointed the general rendezvous of the recruits on the first day of May. It would be scarcely possible to accomplish a work of this magnitude in a much shorter period, and political considerations, which at this crisis are certainly of considerable moment to the volunteers themselves, have influenced me in choosing that day rather than a week earlier. I hope you will be satisfied with this as well as the other detailed instructions in the address.

General Hall has lately called out another detachment of 1,000 men. They marched from here about a week ago to relieve Col. Davis's Regt. I am told he has it in contemplation to make a requisition shortly for 1,000 more to replace another regiment detached subsequently to Davis's. I shall set out for his camp in the morning. It is probable that your order for raising volunteers, together with the approach of General Brown (whose advance has this moment arrived a second time at this place, but of whose marches and counter-marches I do not pretend to understand the object,) may dissuade him from carrying this measure into effect. It will be impossible for me to say at this time what will be our ultimate success in raising volunteers. Judging from present appearances I *conjecture* we shall nearly, if not quite, complete the corps by the appointed day.

Your Excellency will readily perceive how much I have at hazard, not so much in the enlisting as subsequently in the appearance, the discipline and successful operations of these troops. You may rest assured that no exertions of mine shall be wanting to render them useful and creditable to the State and to its commander-in-chief. The means of doing this are not within my control but must depend entirely on you. It is important that the supplies of arms, ammunition, camp equipage, &c., &c., should be ready for them by the time they are promised, and I sincerely hope that uniform clothing may also be furnished. The commandant of the corps should be entrusted with some discretion at least, to points of

minor consideration, and I must beg that you will forward me some general instructions.

Am I authorized by anything you have written to General Hall to enlist the militia under his command? If not, I must require Your Excellency to transmit that authority to me, as it is *possible* he may not be disposed to give me a very cordial support.

Capt. Stone is very desirous of raising a troop of *cavalry;* and if you shall approve the measure I shall thank you to authorize me to change the proposed company of mounted riflemen into a company of cavalry. The reasons in favor of this exchange are that the cavalry would be sooner raised, probably in five or six days. There are, I am informed, 100 pairs of pistols and other equipments now in the arsenal at this place, which will not otherwise be employed, and there will probably be a deficiency of rifles. Besides, as our mounted men will not be sufficiently numerous to perform any important service as infantry, a company of cavalry might answer our purpose better.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Jacob Dox to General P. B. Porter.

WILLIAMSVILLE, April 6th, 1814.

SIR,—Since your departure, I have had a conversation with General Burnet, on the subject we conversed on previous to your departure from this place. He was not at any time opposed to the plan of volunteering instead of drafting, but, as I mentioned to you at that time, he was fearful it would not be effected, as no officers were particularized to commence the recruiting, but the mode pointed out in your address, obviating that difficulty, he has never entertained the least idea which would operate against, but on the contrary has given opinions which tend directly to promote the object in view. Should the whole corps be raised and the commander-in-chief honor him with an assignment, he will cheerfully and with alacrity accept it. Should this take place he will wish me to continue with him. But if not, I wish to enter the corps under your command, and accept of a station. I wish it to be an active one, and not so uncomfortable as one in the line. I wish you would consider this letter as *confidential*, and if my wish cannot be effected by having me placed in a desirable situation, I trust this subject will be confined to your own breast, for I assure you none of my friends are in the least acquainted with the application, and it might produce on their part a desire to frustrate it owing to my business

at home, as well as ingenious remarks of enemies in case of a non-appointment, and ensuing mortification.

We remain as yet here, peaceable and quiet, undisturbed by the enemy and likely not to disturb them. The militia will be discharged by companies on Saturday and the following day until the whole frontier will, as it were, remain defenceless until the regulars take our present or more advanced station.

(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter.)

General Order.

The term of service of the regiments of detached militia commanded by Lieut.-Colonels Harris and Dobbin, being about to expire, the Major General orders their discharge from the service in the following order:

The regiment commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Harris by companies, on such days as Lieut.-Colonel Harris shall direct.

The regiment commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin by companies, on the following days; on Saturday, the 9th inst., the companies commanded by Captains Spencer and Dunn, and on the 11th those commanded by Captains Woodworth and Swan.

The good conduct of the officers and men composing these regiments during the fatigues and privations of the winter campaign has been such as to merit the warmest praise from the General and their fellow citizens. The zeal and activity of the officers, the patient endurance of hardships and subordination of the men, have sufficiently proven that they are capable of performing the important duty of soldiers, and that they are worthy of the confidence of their country.

It is a subject of much regret that those who have left their employments and endearments of domestic life for the defence of the State, in the most inclement season of the year, should not meet the pecuniary reward which the laws of our country allow them, and which they had every reason to expect from Government. The Major General assures the officers and men that he has not omitted to give seasonable information respecting the situation and demands of the troops under his command, and to request an early attention to their first claims, with as much earnestness and plainness as was consistent with the respect due to superiors. His exertions shall be continued to procure justice for his fellow citizens, who have established so good claims to his respect and the gratitude of their

country. A consciousness of having done their duty, and the best wishes of the Major General for their future prosperity and happiness, accompany each officer and soldier of these meritorious corps to their homes.

By order of Major General A. Hall, Comd'g.

WM. H. ADAMS,
Acting A. D. C.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, April 12, 1814.)

General Porter to Governor Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, April 8, 1814.

SIR,—

* * * * * * *

Several British vessels have already been seen on Lake Ontario. The deposits of public property at Genesee River and Sodus would in my opinion render it prudent to guard each of them at present by a small force. A company of volunteers will be raised near each of these and will serve as a guard so long as they remain there. But permit me again to recommend the expediency of authorizing the call of 100 militia to each of these places on the removal of the volunteers in case the measure should *then* be warranted by the probability of an attack.

* * * * * * *

The British force on the Niagara Station is estimated at 2600—3000 men. General Brown is near Batavia and very anxiously expecting the volunteer and Indian force. He has lately received a letter from the Secretary of War, which has relieved him from the embarrassment caused by some doubt as to his instructions of the particulars, of which he says you are informed.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to the Secretary of War.

CANANDAIGUA, April 8, 1814.

SIR,—I was much pleased to meet Mr. Parrish a few days ago at Buffalo, with your instructions to the warriors of the Six Nations. We held a council with the chiefs of that village on Sunday last. After deliberating a short time, the principal chief, *Red Jacket*, informed us that it would be deemed arrogant in the few then assembled to undertake to answer for the whole Six Nations propositions of so much moment. That they would immediately send

runners with your *Talk* to the chiefs and warriors of the distant villages, ascertain their wishes and communicate the result to us at this place in eight or ten days, and that he had no hesitation in giving his *individual* opinion that your offers would be acceded to.

As you have thought proper to attach the Indian corps to my command, (a circumstance that is gratifying to me,) you will permit me to make some enquiries and suggestions respecting them.

There are from 6 to 700 warriors of the Six Nations residing in this vicinity. Mr. Parrish is of opinion that as many as 500 will offer their services. Shall we be permitted to take *all* the effectives who offer, although their number exceed 400—the force originally contemplated ?

A considerable proportion of the warriors have good rifles of their own. Muskets are of little use in their hands, and even if we had rifles to supply the whole, *their own*, to which they have been accustomed in hunting, would be much better. Shall I be authorized to assure them that if they bring their own rifles they shall be allowed a fair compensation for the use of them, and in case of loss by unavoidable accident the value of them, to be previously ascertained ?

To make this force efficient, it should be well organized and a few *white* officers, acquainted with their language and manners, should be attached to it to ensure a proper understanding and concert of operations. They would be jealous of a direct command, but this difficulty may be avoided by assigning them a staff, (which is as indispensable to them as to any other corps,) the officers of which would have a proper control over them—say a principal agent, an adjutant or inspector, a quarter-master, a commissary and a few assistants, with such rank and pay as may be thought proper. Will you be pleased to give me some instructions on this subject ? Mr. Granger's state of health may possibly discourage any wish which he might otherwise have to take the field in person. Mr. Parrish is a man of great vigor of body and mind, and if he would enter heartily into the business, as he at present appears disposed to do if invited, would be of great service in collecting and organizing the Indians, and afterwards in conducting them to the field. I have already mentioned to you that the Indians will want some articles of clothing.

My prospects are very flattering as to volunteers. The only discouraging circumstance is that the pecuniary inducements offered them are much less than those offered to other troops. I am not without hopes, however, that we shall raise the *whole* corps.

Colonel Jenkins, I presume, will have been instructed to furnish the necessary tents and other camp equipage, &c. Major Noon is now at this place, but I am fearful he may be ordered away. We cannot move without an efficient quartermaster.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to Captain W. R. Rochester.

CANANDAIGUA, April 10th, 1814.

* * * * * * *

Our prospects at present exceed our most sanguine anticipations a fortnight ago. We shall probably raise four companies in this county, and many more in proportion to numbers to the west. We understand that they are recruiting in almost every county from this to Albany. I should be highly gratified to have you raise a company in Steuben, which I believe you could do sooner than any other man. We expect that about 500 Indian warriors will be attached to our corps. Captain Parrish and I held a council with the chiefs at Buffalo last week, and we have strong assurances that they will all turn out.

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(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Jacob Brown to General Peter B. Porter.

(Confidential.)

WILLIAMSVILLE, April 17th, 1814.

DEAR GENERAL,—You have seen General Hall's General Order. Such a production would break an officer in the regular service. It is our duty and I suppose the duty of every officer to endeavor to give character and strength to the Government and country. Any attempt on the part of a person that the Government has authorized to wear a sword to destroy all confidence in that Government appears to me to be a high military offence.

General Hall stated to me that it was impossible to retain the militia in service. He had discharged the whole of those that were at this place before my arrival, notwithstanding I had particularly desired him to retain the last draft, if those whose time of service had expired could not be prevailed on to stay.

You will consider *whatever* I may say to you on military subjects as confidential, as I desire to conceal nothing from you.

No orders have yet reached me from the Secretary of War. But I know that he is well pleased with the *mistake*, and I do not doubt but the necessary arrangements will be made for crossing a little below Long Point, (with the aid of our flotilla on Lake Erie,) and by turning the enemy's position attacking them in rear. Of this, more when I see you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to General Brown.

CANANDAIGUA, April 21, 1814.

SIR,—The bearers are three young warriors of the Seneca nation on their return from Canandaigua, where they were sent to obtain some explanations from Mr. Parrish and myself relative to the late *Talk* of the Secretary of War, and are to report our answer to a council of chiefs now sitting at Buffalo. Before the council is dissolved they are to make a final decision on the propositions of the Secretary, which I presume will be to accede to them, and we have requested them to put themselves in a state of complete preparation so that they may assemble at a day's notice.

The Onondagas and Oneidas have lately held a general council and agreed that they will all turn out and assist their *white* brethren to drive the British from our *Island*. The result of the council was transmitted to this place by a delegation of warriors, and will be conveyed by the bearers hereof to the Senecas at Buffalo.

My prospects as to volunteers are yet promising, but I cannot calculate with any certainty on the number that will be raised.

My opinion of General Hall's valedictory order agrees with yours. I had no doubt that he possessed the dispositions manifested in this order, but I had hardly expected to see them exhibited in this way.

I entirely concur in the policy of the measures intimated in the latter part of your letter, and, as you wish, shall consider it strictly confidential.

P. S.—It is customary to give provisions to the Indians when assembled on public business, especially if convened at the request of the Government. As Mr. Granger, (the agent,) is now absent, I presume you will order bread and meat to be issued to the chiefs now at Buffalo. The bearers will probably be out of provisions by the time they arrive at Williamsville.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Jacob Brown to General Peter B. Porter.

HEADQUARTERS,
SACKETT'S HARBOR, April 29th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I arrived at this post the night of the 24th. The enemy's fleet has not been yet upon the lake. Their new ships are not completed. They are in great forwardness, and we have reason to believe that within ten days they will appear upon the lake. As Chauncy cannot meet them without his new ship, for a short time they must have the ascendency on the lake. During their ascendency they may deem it most wise to attack this post. My opinion is that their attack is more to be desired than apprehended, but as the stake is of great national importance, and as the Secretary considers me responsible for the safety of this post, I shall not leave it until the new ship is completed and Commodore Chauncey can face Yeo.

(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter.)

The Secretary of War to General Peter B. Porter.

(2nd May, 1814?)

DEAR GENERAL,—Your letter of the 8th ult. has been received. Mr. Parrish may take 500 Indians, if so many can be procured. If they use their own rifles a reasonable compensation shall be made to them, and if the rifles be lost by unavoidable accident, they shall be indemnified agreeably to appraisement made previously, and on oath, by competent judges. You will invite Mr. Parrish to lead them, and are authorized to attach to them a Quatermaster and such other staff officers as may be indispensable. I shall appoint your brother a Deputy-Quartermaster-General. I hope your corps will soon be in the field and ready for action.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to the Secretary of War.

CANANDAIGUA, May 3rd, 1814.

SIR,—The Indians have agreed to accept the invitation of the President to take up arms. The number of warriors will probably be 500. They will assemble at any place and on any day we may designate. Red Jacket and five other chiefs were sent from the council to ask explanations from me, and, (if they should be satisfactory,) to give the answer, which they have done, to your letter. They requested that these explanations should be in writing and a copy transmitted to you, in which request I have indulged them.

The volunteers were to have assembled in this town on the 1st inst., but as there are no barracks, and having neither a tent, camp kettle, quartermaster or cash, I was under the necessity about ten days ago of sending instructions to the recruits to remain where they were until further orders.

The necessity of these supplies was strongly urged to the Government before I left Albany, and I had presumed they would be furnished. Indeed, I had supposed that Major Noon was sent to Canandaigua principally with a view to the supply of our corps, but it seems he has no instructions relating to it.

We have probably 1,000 volunteers or upwards now engaged, and if we had means we could recruit more rapidly than heretofore. I have stationed about 200, (recruited in that vicinity,) at the mouth of the Genesee River, and supplied them with arms for the protection of the public provisions deposited there.

I am anxiously waiting instructions from you and the Governor.

Major E. D. Wood to General Porter.

(Extract.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, May 10th, 1814.

I hope, sir, that you have met with success, *as well in your political race* as in assembling volunteers and Indians to serve on the Niagara frontier. We have lost nothing of importance at Oswego. The affair, I think, was honorable to our arms. The troops fought gallantly so long as resistance would avail anything, and then retired in good order to the Falls.

This place has become very strong, and is now defended by 3,000 regulars. So nothing is to be apprehended in the event of a visit from Sir George.

On the 1st inst. Commodore Chauncey launched his 64-gun ship, and already has another of a smaller size in a forward state upon the stocks.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

The Secretary of War to the Six Nations.

Brethren of the Six Nations living within the State of New York:

Your father, the President, invites you to join your arms to those of your white brethren, and to employ them in driving from our territory the enemies of both.

He has ordered me to say to such of you warriors as comply with this request, that they shall be fed and paid and supplied as the troops of the United States. Go forth then in your strength; make the invaders of our land fly before you. General Peter B. Porter, your friend and neighbor, will lead you to battle. Believe in what he says, obey his directions, and continue to deserve the approbation and favor of your father, the President.

[L. S.] Given at Washington this 14th day of February, 1814, under the seal of the War Department.

JOHN ARMSTRONG,
Secretary of War.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to the Six Nations.

Answer of General P. B. Porter to a delegation of chiefs of the Six Nations sent to make inquiries and ask explanations relative to a late communication of the President inviting them to take up arms:

BROTHERS,—I have received no authority from the President to enter into any engagements further than are contained in his late talk to you through the Secretary of War.

Your father, the President, therein invites you to take up arms and associate with your neighbors, the volunteers, who are now embodying under my command. He places you, (and it would be unjust for him to do otherwise,) on the same footing with his white children, the volunteers, and I am not empowered to make any engagements to them which are not made equally to you. He promises you both that you shall receive the same pay, rations, and supplies as are given to his regular troops. What these are, has often been explained to you.

As to the other subjects on which you ask explanations, I have no objection to giving you my opinion. But you will understand that it is only my individual opinion, as I have received no instructions from the Government to treat with you on these points.

You suppose it possible that the fortunes of war may place the enemy in possession of the lands you now occupy, and inquire what you may expect in such an event.

My answer is that the United States by their treaties with you guarantee to you the enjoyment of your lands, and so long as their arm is strong enough they will ensure you the quiet possession of them. But should the strength of the enemy prevail and drive you off, you will be treated like your white brethren, many of

whom will be found in the same situation—that is, you will be furnished with a new seat in some other part of the United States.

You say that the Six Nations own land on the Grand River, which has been granted them by the British Government, and ask what will be the situation of it in case of our taking possession of Canada.

I answer that the United States will confirm this land to you and your children, and the military services you render in obtaining it will strengthen your title.

You apprehend difficulties to the Indians on account of our rigid system of discipline and our modes of conducting war, which differ so much from those practised by your people.

I have no right to make a new set of regulations for the army, but your father, the President, knows and respects your usages and customs. He has no idea of subjecting you to the severe discipline of regular troops. You will have a liberal indulgence as to your particular modes of conducting war, and the opinions of your chiefs, many of whom are wise and experienced warriors, will be consulted.

In short, brothers, it is impossible for us to think of making a particular treaty beforehand for every possible case that may occur. If we were to attempt it the enemy would overrun our country while we are making bargains about taking *theirs*. You have had many and important dealings with the Government of the United States, and have always found it just and honorable to you. Shew it in return a liberal confidence.

If you are not satisfied with the promises and explanations now given you; if you are not willing to act with the volunteers in the same cause and for the same encouragements that are held out to them, go home and sleep. Let us hear no more of you as warriors, and we will not only take care of ourselves but we will defend you and your women and children from the enemy. But if you love your country and wish to defend your families and property with your own arms; if you wish to brighten the chain of friendship between yourselves and your white brethren by partaking with them in common dangers and successes; if you are ambitious to support the military fame of your ancestors of the Six Nations, go back, arm, and prepare all your young warriors, &c., &c., to join us when we arrive at Buffalo, and we will sweep the enemy from the country.

We shall be ready to move in 15 or 20 days. We wish to know your minds now, that we may inform the Secretary of War, and make some preparations to arm and support you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Peter B. Porter to Governor Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, May 17, 1814.

SIR,—I returned yesterday with Major Noon from the mouth of the Genesee River, where we were called on Friday last by information of the approach of the British fleet. The enclosed newspaper account is a tolerably correct relation of what took place.

We saved the town and our own credit by fairly outbullying John Bull. The discovery that we had troops, without knowing their numbers, concealed in a ravine near the mouth of the river to cut off their retreat in case they entered it, together with the tone of defiance with which we answered their demands, (the last answer having been conveyed by our friend Major Noon,) made them think it prudent to be off. We had, however, some excellent officers and good men well prepared, and in case the enemy had landed I had no doubt of a result creditable to the State.

When the enemy left Genesee they stood to the eastward, and a cannonading has been heard in the direction of Pultneyville, whither I believe General Swift had proceeded with some volunteers and militia. There is a report in town to-day that they landed at that place and took about 75 or 100 barrels of public provisions. The Oswego paper is undoubtedly genuine.

On the subject of the volunteer corps, I am still without a line from you or the Secretary of War. The silence on the part of Your Excellency is the more inexplicable, as I am sure that you can entertain no unfriendly views towards me personally. I have a considerable body of men engaged, by whom I am continually harassed by calls for contingencies, instructions, &c., &c., which it is not in my power to meet. I have neither money nor reputation to waste in pursuing the course to which a continuation of the present extraordinary state of this business must lead. But I find still greater difficulties in going back than forward. Having raised the men by your advice, I do not feel authorized to dismiss them without the same authority. I am sure I must receive something from Your Excellency shortly.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Brigadier-General John Swift to General Porter.

PALMYRA, 19th May, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to communicate to you an affair which took place at Pultneyville on Sunday last, between the enemy and a party of Americans consisting of 100 militia of Major Rodgers' battalion and 24 N. Y. S. Volunteers. On Thursday last

I received information by express that the enemy were off Pultneyville. On Friday I was informed that the enemy still continued off that place, and had got their barges out for the purpose of landing, but a thick fog coming on deterred them from their intended project. On Saturday about 4 o'clock p. m. I received intelligence that the enemy were off that place, and had taken four prisoners from the Four-Mile Creek. I immediately ordered what volunteers I had at this place to march immediately, and used my utmost endeavors to rally the militia. I arrived at Pultneyville on Sunday at 10 o'clock a. m. The fog still continued on the lake so that it was impossible to discover anything further than a mile from the shore. At about 12 a. m. the fog cleared and the enemy's fleet to the number of four ships, one brig and one schooner, appeared about four miles distant from the shore. I then proceeded to arrange my force in the best manner I could for the purpose of being prepared in case they should attack us. At 4 p. m. the enemy sent a flag ashore and demanded the publick property, and if it was not given up the village should be destroyed. My reply was that the property which remained in the storehouse at Pultneyville was property of private citizens of the U. S., and that the moment they attempted to land I should consider they invaded the American shore, and should defend it to the last extremity. After the enemy's flag had returned, several of the inhabitants informed me that there was only about 100 bbls. of damaged flour, and that if the village could be saved by sacrificing that, I had better do it. I now had two difficulties to struggle between. One was that if I permitted the enemy to land and take possession of private property on our own shores it would be injuring the honor and dignity of our country, and if I did not do so, I was sensible that many of the inhabitants would be deprived of their all. Under these considerations I concluded that it was best to send a flag to the enemy with this proposal, that if they would land and take nothing but what property remained in the storehouse and not molest private property or individuals, they could do it. Soon after I had despatched our flag and before it had reached the enemy, I observed them to be hoisting out their boats and filling them with men. I then again proceeded immediately to arrange my force for action. A number of the enemy's boats had landed and commenced loading the flour into their boats. A company of regulars had marched into the village and had begun to take possession of that before I had received an answer to the proposal which I had sent to the enemy. I immediately took the command of the volunteers and ordered them to commence firing, which they did in such a destructive manner that the enemy were obliged to take shelter in one of the

houses to cover themselves from our fire. A number of the gunboats lay within a quarter of a mile of shore and the shipping one or two miles out. A cannonading soon commenced from them, which obliged us to retire into the woods. However, the enemy did not remain long on shore and left it so precipitately they cut their boats loose and lost several barrels of flour. I am happy to inform you that no loss was sustained on our part except the loss of about 130 barrels of musty flour. The officer that commanded the expedition on shore, it is said, was wounded, and we have reason to judge from circumstances at that time that there must have been undoubtedly a number more wounded. The prisoners they took at the Four Mile Creek they put on shore in the first flag, but took two more when they retreated.

The public property to the amount of about 230 barrels of flour remain about three-quarters of a mile back from Putneyville.

I shall be at Canandaigua this week.

(From MSS of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Governor D. D. Tompkins to General P. B. Porter.

ALBANY, May 17th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I returned yesterday from the south, where I had been on Staten Island and in Westchester county. Your letter dated at Canandaigua, and the subsequent one from Onondaga, were received. The former I forwarded to the Secretary of War, with a letter urging him to see that the defects you complain of should be supplied. Mr. Jenkins informs me that tents and other equipments, and also clothing for the Niagara army, have gone on, but that the contractors left them on the road, and that agents have been sent on to collect and forward them.

The commissions I forwarded to you some time since, with liberty for you to fill them up as you pleased. The commissions and the order enclosed are the only things which I can do towards organizing and equipping the volunteers. You may remember the the Secretary's order calling on the volunteers expressly stipulated that *arms, equipment, and camp equipage* would be furnished by the United States, and would be ready by the time the volunteers could be assembled, and in the original requisition named the *staff of officers* whom he should send on for the purpose. If there be anything that I can do further, please *specify* it in a letter, and I will comply with any request which is within my authority.

You may confidently assure the people who were discharged without pay that by reason of the result of the election I venture

to say that they will be duly paid. I have never seen the cause of their non-payment explained. The truth is that the money to pay the quota called out under *United States authority* was transmitted in season, but could not be paid because General Hall had caused the muster rolls to be certified by a militia officer instead of an inspector or deputy-inspector, &c., of the army, as required by the regulations. As to the troops called out by *State* authority, the militia law pledges the faith of the Legislature to pay them the same as regular troops whilst they may be in service, and the only thing wanting was an appropriation of money to comply with the pledge, and directions as to the vouchers upon which they should be paid, &c. I made an urgent communication to the Assembly, soliciting such appropriation, and accompanied by an extract of General Hall's letter requesting me to procure an appropriation for the purpose. The Assembly adjourned without redeeming the pledge made by the militia law, after having had my communication before them five or six weeks. But there is reason to hope the next Legislature will do that justice which the last failed to do, and indeed it is perhaps fortunate for the troops that they did not receive their pay before their discharge, because it is probable the next Legislature will allow them more than the mere pay of the army, on account of their finding their own clothing.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Captain Wm. H. Merritt to Major General Riall.

(Extract.)

TWELVE MILE CREEK, (undated.)

The horses are furnished by the men at 6 pence a day. I have not more than twelve good horses in the troop. I have thirty rank and file, who have a thorough knowledge of the country, and whose fidelity is well tried.

(From MSS. of J. P. Merritt, Esq.)

Lieut. Charles Ingersoll, Provincial Light Dragoons, to Captain Wm. Hamilton Merritt.

(Extract.)

GRAND RIVER, (undated).

Henry Young deserted last night. Westbrook came up the same evening and made Major Tewsley prisoner. He left his compliments for Captain Caldwell, saying that in a short time he would visit Oxford again, with a party of Indians.

(From MSS. of J. P. Merritt, Esq.)

Lieutenant Charles Ingersoll to Captain Wm. Hamilton Merritt.

ANCASTER, 20th May, 1814.

SIR,—I have this morning returned from Long Point. The Americans all left that place, after burning three grist-mills and the little village of Dover. A. Markle and young Green were the principal leaders. They were permitted to land very quietly in sight of the 19th Dragoons and a small party of militia. Their number could not have been very great. The dragoons were ordered to retire, and had reached the crossing of the Grand River before they were countermanded.

(From MSS. of J. P. Merritt, Esq.)

General P. B. Porter to General Brown.

CANANDAIGUA, May 26th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—The express who brought your letter of the 19th, and by whom you requested an answer, passed through this place on his return without my knowledge. It was, however, of little consequence, as I had in effect answered it by General Swift, who has gone to Utica to make known to you our situation and our wants.

We have probably about 1,000 men engaged in different parts of the country, exclusive of Indians. But we have neither tents, camp kettles, blankets, clothing, money, or quartermaster to supply their wants. It will therefore be totally impracticable to collect and organize them until some provision is made for their supplies, the majority of which I have not ceased from the first moment of my appointment to urge to the Secretary of War and the Governor. You will know what our wants are when I inform you that I know of no article to be obtained for us at this place and to the west excepting *muskets*, of which I believe there is a full supply, but without cartridge boxes or canteens.

I have received a letter from the Secretary of War agreeing to certain propositions which I had made to him relative to the organization of the Indians. Captain Parrish, who will have the immediate command of them, has gone to Buffalo to put those to the west in a state of preparation. He will return in three or four days, and proceed immediately to Oneida to collect and march those who live in that quarter. There will be about 500 warriors, &c., when we shall want a supply of blankets, shirts, shoes, and a small quantity of cloth for breech-cloths. Those who have them will carry their own rifles, but the remainder, (say one-half,) will expect to be supplied by the public. There will also be two rifle companies

in my corps, who should be furnished. I have a company of cavalry, which is full and completely equipped with the exception of *sabres*, of which they are destitute. I shall esteem it a favor if you will order on say from 100 to 110 for their use.

The total destitution of supplies, and even of a cent of money for contingent expenses, has hitherto retarded and almost discouraged our exertions. If those shall be provided, I trust we shall collect a respectable and efficient force in the course of a few days, ready and willing to act. Until the means are supplied, you will see the impossibility of our marching.

I hope shortly to have an answer from you, with the means of enabling me to proceed.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to Governor Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, May 26, 1814.

SIR,—Since I last wrote to you I have been relieved from some part of my anxiety by the receipt of your letter of the 17th, by General Edmunds, and since which time I have received a letter from the Secretary of War agreeing to certain propositions I had submitted to him relative to the Indian corps, and expressing his hope that the volunteers would be soon in the field and ready for action. Also, a letter from Major-General Brown, which it occurs was written in consequence of advice from the Secretary of War, in which he anticipates that we shall be organized and ready to march by the beginning of June, and requests me to let him know our wants, that he may order them supplied from Albany, as far as he has authority.

But I have no tents, kettles, blankets, money, or Q. Master to supply them, and it would be madness to call them together only to suffer and complain. I have advised General Brown of my situation.

About 70 men near the head of Seneca Lake have associated and equipped themselves, in the expectation of being received into the corps as a company of *mounted men*, and think they could fill the company in a few days, but your order having authorized only *one* company of mounted men, and Captain Stone's company being filled up, I have no authority to receive them without further instructions from you, which I hope you may think proper to give.

It is rumored here that Your Excellency intends calling the Legislature together in July. I really hope it may be true, for several reasons, and especially on account of the volunteers, who find some difficulty in engaging in a serious campaign at 8 dollars

per month when they can get 15 from the farmers. The notice convoking the Legislature would itself produce an immediate effect, as it would be an earnest of what they are to expect.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Erastus Granger to General Porter.

BUFFALO, May 28th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Since my arrival at this place I have been almost constantly with the Indians, and since they have determined to volunteer their services under you they are daily in council on subjects relating to the war, and have many things to say.

General Scott, conceiving that it would be an advantage to have them ready on your arrival, called them together three days since; told them that you and he acted in concert; that you were one; that you would move immediately, take the charge of them when embodied, but that you should be well pleased to find their warriors at this place on your arrival.

The chiefs have sent runners to Tonewanda, Genessee River, Allegany, and Catteragus, requesting their warriors to be here in ten days from yesterday. The Indians at Buffalo are impatient to be under pay, draw rations, &c. My opinion has coincided with that of General Scott.

The chiefs have requested me to be with them this summer, and as I find myself in a broken and disturbed situation, my family scattered abroad, and having heretofore received the appointment of Paymaster to the Indian volunteers, given bonds for a faithful performance and discharge of that duty for some time, opened accounts with the Paymaster General, &c., I have included to accompany the Indians in that capacity, and otherwise to be useful in any way in which my reasonable services may be required.

General Scott is very industrious in the exercising and disciplining his men. He spares no pains, and I think is an excellent officer.

Nothing important to communicate.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Winfield Scott to General Porter

H. QRS. NIAGARA FRONTIER,
BUFFALO, May 29th, 1814.

DEAR GENERAL,—I regret that I have not had a line from you on the subject of your levy, but hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you at this place with your collected force.

Supposing it would be advisable to get the Indians together at this place to meet your arrival, I made them an invitation accordingly. They are full of zeal and anxious to engage in operations. I told them that you were expected here in some ten or fourteen days, and in the meantime they should draw rations and be put on pay. This measure may save us some weeks. The Secretary asks in one of his letters: "Are your red brethren with you?" So I thought it would be agreeable to his wishes and acceptable to you to bring them together as early as possible.

I am greatly deficient in tents at this place, and cannot therefore give you any assistance in that article at present. Only one-half the supply ordered from Albany has arrived. I hear the remainder are on the road, and I have required a further supply of 300 to enable me to furnish your corps. Everything else I have in sufficient abundance, except funds for the Q. M'r's. Dept., but suppose Major Noon has taken measures to procure the necessary sums.

Let me have a letter from you. Will it not be indispensable to your success with the Indians to engage the services of Mr. Parrish as interpreter. The Secretary would give the authority on application, and if you think it necessary I will join you in the solicitation.

I have ordered forward 500 rifles for such Indians as may be without, and am repairing all brought by them to our armory. They are much pleased with the prospect of having you as their commander.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 1st June, 1814.

SIR,—It was with sincere regret and disappointment that I perused the detail of illiberal and wanton devastation and unjustifiable outrage reported in your letter of the 27th ulto., and M. Gen'l Riall's of the 19th, to have been committed in the vicinity of Dover, and on its unoffending inhabitants by the conflagration of their dwelling-houses and mills.

I cherished the hope that the severe, though just, retaliation inflicted for the destruction of the village of Newark would have deterred the enemy from recurring to similar acts of barbarity; under that impression I issued the proclamation of the 4th January last, which has been most scrupulously adhered to by the troops under my command. And it is with painful reluctance I feel

myself compelled to return to a system so abhorrent to the principles which always animated and characterized Britons, but such horrors cannot be suffered to remain without notice or unavenged.

You must therefore transmit by a flag of truce to the officer commanding the American force nearest to you, a statement of those atrocities with information that you have my instructions to inflict a severe retaliation for them.

You may assure him that the same will be repeated for every act of cruel outrage committed on the defenceless and peaceful settlers of our frontiers, and that the British fleet on the coast of America will be called upon to assist in this measure of just retaliation.

Sir George Prevost to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 2nd June, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter which I have written to Lieutenant-General Drummond in consequence of the late disgraceful conduct of the American troops in the wanton destruction of private property on the north shores of Lake Erie, in order that if the war with the United States continues you may, should you judge it advisable, assist in inflicting that measure of retaliation which shall deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages.

General Porter to Jasper Parrish.

CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—You will please to proceed to Onondaga and Oneida and collect and march to this place, with as little delay as possible, all the Indian warriors in that quarter who may have agreed to comply with the invitation of the President of the 14th February last. Messrs. Trowbridge and Webster will assist you and be subject to your orders, the former as Inspector, and the latter as Quartermaster of the Indian corps.

The Indians who have rifles will be invited to bring them; they will be allowed a fair compensation for the use of them and the value of them in case of loss by unavoidable accidents. The contractor's agents will furnish provisions on your requisition.

The Secretary of War having directed me to invite you to take charge of the warriors, but without specifying what your rank and pay will be, I can only assure you that you will be allowed a fair

compensation for your services and expenses, in addition to your proper pay as agent.

Your extra pay will commence from the time when you first went to Buffalo with the Secretary's letter to the Indians, and which I think was about the first of April.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to Edmund A. Trowbridge.

CANANDAIGUA, May 24th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed an *Inspector* of the corps of Indian warriors mustered into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the 14th of February last.

You will be subject to the orders of Jasper Parrish, Esq., who will have the immediate command of the warriors, and assist him in collecting and organizing them.

I have not been advised by the Secretary of War what your rank and pay will be. I presume, however, you will receive the pay and emoluments of a Captain in the United States Infantry.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to Ephraim Webster.

CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given me by the Secretary of War, I have appointed you Quartermaster of the corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the United States of the 14th of February last.

Mr. Parrish will leave this place in the morning for Onondaga and Oneida to collect the warriors in that quarter, and march them to the frontier. You will obey the orders of Mr. Parrish as the officer having the immediate command of the Indian corps. I am not advised by the Secretary of War what your rank and pay will be, but I presume you will receive the pay and emoluments of a Captain of United States Infantry.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Brown to Caleb Hopkins.

BUFFALO, June 20th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed *Adjutant* of the

corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the 14th February last.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

The Secretary of War to General Brown.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 10, 1814.

(Extract.)

To give, however, immediate occupation to your troops, and to prevent their blood from stagnating. why not take Fort Erie and its garrison, stated at three or four hundred men. Land between Point Abino and Erie in the night; assail the fort by land and water; push forward a corps to seize the bridge at Chippawa, and be governed by circumstances in either stopping there or going farther. Boats may follow and feed you. If the enemy concentrates his whole force on this line, as I think he will, it will not exceed two thousand men.

(From Henry Adams' History of the United States, Vol. VIII., p. 33.)

General Jacob Brown to General Peter B. Porter.

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO, June 11th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 8th was handed to me last evening. I hope that you may be enabled to join me at this place as you anticipate. Major Noon will pay to your Quartermaster $1,500. You will consider your command on the same footing with the regulars as to all expenses. When we are in funds your accounts will be paid, and I trust we shall not want for money for all proper purposes or expenses.

You may rely upon my disposition to do everything in my power to promote your views.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)

Wm. Carpenter to General Porter.

June 13th, (1814?)

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 5th inst. I have received, and immediately repaired to Sangersfield to ascertain the number of recruits obtained by Captain Knap, whom I found ill of a fever. He has enlisted about 45, and has given furloughs to a number to go recruiting, who will not return within the period mentioned in your letter, in time to meet you at Auburn. I have received no

returns from Madison Cy., but have reason to calculate on from 50 to 75 by the latter part of this month, and as many more from this quarter. I have lost no time since my return home. I have seven or eight parties out. We are determined to persist, though in opposition to a most powerful current. I am raising a little money by subscription to appropriate as bounty to the volunteers, and could I be at liberty to furnish a small sum to recruiting officers, to be made use of with economy, the effect would be conspicuous. An order on the Qr.-Mr. Phelps for a small sum I would beg leave to suggest if allowable, particularly as recruiting music must be provided. We have a meeting of the Brothertown Indians this day. They all speak good English, and are quite civilized. I calculate on 20 of their warriors. They will be attached to our Lt. Infantry as being decent men and dress as Christians. It is incumbent on me to go to Watertown and Sackett's Harbor next week. I shall be absent 6 or 7 days, and by sending off my men immediately the parties would be too small to recruit with much effect, as I find the more we get the more willing others are to join (something like the adage of the snowball.) I therefore beg you will allow me to defer my march until the latter end of this month, when I shall with pleasure leave this for any place you may be pleased to order in the interim.

P. S.—Gen'l. Swift told me that the cavalry would belong to my battalion. Please assure me of this, as I can with confidence make an assertion that will be useful.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)

General Brown to General P. B. Porter.

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO,
July (June?) 23rd, 1814.

(Very Confidential.)

DEAR SIR,—I have been expecting to hear from you for some days past, with the hope of learning when you would be able to march to this place with your volunteers. Much precious time is wasting under us. You will order on your dragoons and every corps or company you have formed, upon the receipt of this. The Indians must proceed direct to this place without any more delay.

I intend to cross the streight before me on the 1st or 2d of July, and nothing but the elements will, I believe, prevent the movement.

I am anxious to see you in person, within seven days, with a view to some necessary arrangements before I cross. Write me particularly by the return of the express, and let me know the day on which I may expect to see you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to General Brown.

CANANDAIGUA, June 23, 1814.

SIR,—In returning from an excursion I have lately made to the east, I find that a letter which I wrote you on the day of my departure was not forwarded to you agreeably to my instructions. Its contents, however, were not important.

From the best information now in my possession, I calculate on 1,000 to 1,250 volunteers, exclusive of Indians. They are ordered to rendezvous at Batavia on the 29th inst. I have, however, received information that the recruits raised in Herkimer, Oneida and Madison will not be able to reach Batavia until four or six days after the time assigned, owing to the difficulties they have met with in procuring provisions, &c. If agreeable to you I could wish to remain a few days at Batavia, as well to collect the whole of my force as to organize and subject them to some discipline.

Eighty warriors, principally Onondagas, will march from here in the morning to the west. From 100 to 150 Oneida and Stockbridge warriors are expected here on Monday next.

It would be gratifying to me, and I believe not disagreeable to him, to have Lieut. Fraser in my corps, if you can dispense with his services. His practical knowledge of the various details of duty would be extremely serviceable to me, and his talents, zeal and ardor could not but be attended with the best effects upon the corps at large.

I ought not perhaps to notice, (because it was indirect and unofficial,) an intimation lately given to me that *the Indians are to be detailed from my command.* I have heretofore been given distinctly to understand, and so have they, that they were to form part of my corps, and I cannot for a moment believe that I am to be disappointed in this expectation.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.

General Jacob Brown to General Porter.

(*Private.*)

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO,
June 23rd, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I wrote you by express this morning. You will have learned my intentions from that letter. Nothing but the elements will, I believe, prevent my passing the streight before me on the first of July. You must see me at this place before that date. Order Parrish with the Indians forward. Your dragoons must be here and every corps you have organized.

General P. B. Porter to General Brown.

CANANDAIGUA, 24th June, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment received by express your favor of the 23rd. In a letter I wrote you yesterday by mail, and which you will undoubtedly have received before this reaches you, I informed you of particulars respecting the numbers and progress of my corps, and that they had been ordered to rendezvous at Batavia on the 29th inst. The shortness of the time will not permit me to hasten this period, but I will immediately send to the officers in this vicinity and expedite their movements as much as possible.

That I may have the opportunity of a personal conference with you, which you request, and which I am very desirous of myself, I shall make my arrangements to be at Buffalo on Tuesday next, whence I can return to Batavia and meet my corps on Wednesday. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are preparing for a movement. I feel extremely anxious to accompany you. One week however beyond the 29th would make an immense difference in the strength and efficiency of my corps, and I hope that 5 or 6 days may not be essential to you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Monthly Return of 1st Brigade, General Scott, June 30, 1814.

	Present for Duty.		*Aggregate.*
	N. C. O. Rank and File.	*Officers.*	*Present and Absent.*
9th Regt.	332	16	642
11th Regt.	416	17	577
22nd Regt.	217	12	287
25th Regt	354	16	619
General staff		4	4
Total	1319	65	2129
SECOND BRIGADE, GENERAL RIPLEY.			
21st Regt	651	25	917
23rd Regt.	341	8	496
General staff		2	
Total	992	35	1415
ARTILLERY, MAJOR HINDMAN.			
Towson's company	89		101
Biddle's company	80		104
Ritchie's company	96		138
Williams' company	62		73
Total	327		413

Monthly Return of General Brown's Division, July 1, 1814.

	N. C. O. and Men.	*Officers.*	*Aggregate.*
Artillery	330	15	413
Scott's Brigade	1312	65	2122
Ripley's Brigade	992	36	1415
Porter's Brigade	710	43	830
Total	3344	159	4780

(From Henry Adams' History of the United States, VIII. p. 35, 37.)

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 5, 1814.

On Thursday last a party of British regulars and Indians, between 2 and 300 strong, made their appearance at Lewiston and drove away many of the inhabitants, some of which they took. We learn that they then proceeded a few miles on the Ridge Road, burnt the militia barracks at Hardscrabble, and plundered horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. A branch of the same party, as we understand, came up to Schlosser. They were commanded by a son of the celebrated Elliott.

One of the Indians was killed in a quarrel with a Mr. Sage, who was detained as a prisoner. The Indian, being intoxicated, attacked Sage with the butt of his gun. Sage struck him with an axe, cut him down and escaped.

Young Elliott told the inhabitants that those who remained peaceably in their houses should not be hurt.

We learn further that the party have left Lewiston with above a hundred head of cattle.

(From Boston Yankee, 15th July, 1814.)

Extract of a Letter to a Gentleman in New York, Dated Sackett's Harbor, July 6.

With pleasure I inform you of a small expedition, (fitted out of this place on the 27th ult., and returned this day,) of two whale boats carrying 15 men each, who succeeded in burning a bomb vessel of 90 tons, on the stocks ready for launching, together with a public building containing naval stores, at a place called Presqu' Isle, directly opposite Oswego on the Canada shore.—*Mer. Adv.*

(See Part I. p., 26.)

General Brown to ——Fleming.

CHIPPAWA, U. C., July 6th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed *inspector* of the corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the president of the 14th of February last.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to General Brown.

SIR,—The manner in which the battle of Chippawa was fought by the troops under my command, the extent and nature of the ground it embraced, added to the loss of their principal officers, rendered it impracticable to give you a detailed account of it in time for your report to the Secretary of War without the hazard of considerable errors, and was therefore necessarily deferred.

Having since my arrival at this place seen that report, which, though complimentary to me personally beyond what I had any reason to expect, you will pardon me for saying does great injustice to the troops under my command. I regret that I had not finished even the imperfect account then in my power, because if I had I am sure you would not for a moment have entertained the idea that the volunteers and Indians fled before the enemy without making a proper and adequate resistance.

If the detailed statement which I am now enabled to give shall remove such an unfavorable impression I am certain that no one will receive it with more pleasure than yourself, and you will excuse its length and particularity, without which it will be impossible to have a correct understanding of the operations of my corps on that day.

Immediately on my arrival in camp on the 5th, you informed me that the front and left of the army was much harassed by parties of Indians and militia, and proposed to me to scour the woods where they lay and drive them across the Chippawa bridge, assuring me (truly no doubt at *that* time) that there was no regular force of the enemy on this side of the creek, and cautioning me also not to advance into the plains before Chippawa where we should be exposed to the rake of the enemy's batteries, with which the opposite bank of the creek was lined.

This service, although affording but sorry prospects to the ambition of a soldier, inasmuch as it must end, however well conducted, in a retreat, was cheerfully undertaken by the Indians and 150 Pennsylvania volunteers, the number I required.

I drew them up in an *entire* rank at open order, with my right at the extremity of the fields to the rear and left of the camp, and my left extending into the woods and forming a front of half a mile in extent. The line was at right angles with the Niagara and parallel to the Chippawa, and was supported by a reserve of 56 regular infantry in the rear of the centre, under command of Lieut.

In this order I advanced slowly and cautiously, after having given instructions to charge the enemy the moment we should meet them, and if possible destroy or capture them before they could

gain their batteries, which order was most promptly and effectually executed in so far as regarded the troops which it was our expectation to contend with.

We found them concealed in the woods waiting our approach, and after receiving their fire, charged, drove, and pursued them. Their retreat was a flight, and to effect any useful object it became necessary that our pursuit should be a chase. After continuing this chase for $\frac{3}{4}$th of a mile, the whole of which was marked by carnage, we most unexpectedly found on emerging from the woods near Chippawa that our right was within a few yards of, and precipitating itself upon, the whole British army. On receiving their fire the front of our weak and *now* scattered line recoiled, but I experienced no difficulty in rallying, forming, and advancing it again. I was, however, soon convinced how futile it was to expect that an attenuated line of exhausted men could resist a compact and double line of fresh troops, presenting on the same extent of ground at least four times our numerical force. After a few fires the enemy rushed upon us, and being more than half a mile in advance of and unsupported by Genl. Scott, I ordered a retreat, which, from the rapidity of the pursuit, became on our part a flight, and presented that part of our movements which alone could have met your view, and undoubtedly led to the remarks in your report.

The light companies of the enemy, supported by the Indians and militia who had taken refuge behind them, gave a temporary annoyance to General Scott's left, but were soon broken and driven back by the Indians who formed my extreme left, and who on reaching the plain and meeting the fire of the enemy's batteries retired according to order and fell upon the rear and right flank of the enemy. You were yourself a witness to the alacrity with which the Pennsylvania regiment afterwards advanced to the plains of Chippawa, and under a heavy cannonade formed upon the left of General Scott's line.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to General Brown.

CHIPPAWA, July 10th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I received your order to march. I shall most gladly execute the terms if it will permit. (Sic.) I send you copies of two letters brought in yesterday by the Indians. They are written by a clerk of Messrs. Clark and Street and are genuine.

They go to confirm the extent of the enemy's loss on the 5th and to satisfy me of the correctness of the report which the Indians gave of the battle.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Orders.

Adjutant-General's Office, Left Division,
CHIPPAWA PLAINS, July 6, 1814.

Major-General Brown has the gratification to say that the soldiers of the 2nd Division west of the Niagara merit greater applause than he is able to bestow in General Orders; they merit the highest approbation of their country. The conduct of Brigadier-General Scott's brigade, which had the opportunity to engage the whole force of the enemy, the greater part it is believed of all in the peninsula, removes on the day of this battle the reflection of our country that its reputation in arms is yet to be established. His brigade consists of battalions of the 9th, the 11th, the 25th, and a detachment of the 22nd. Towson's company of artillery, which was attached to it, gallantly commenced and with it sustained the action.

The volunteers and Indians performed their part—they drove the enemy's Indians and light troops until they met the British army.

They meet with the General's approbation.

In the reports of killed and wounded the names of the wounded officers will be mentioned, in order that they may be rewarded with that honorable mention which is due.

By order of Major-General Brown.

C. K. GARDNER,
Adjutant-General.

(From Utica Gazette Extra, July 9, 1814.)

Militia General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, July 10th, 1814.

His Honor the President and Lieutenant-General Commanding has the greatest satisfaction in communicating to the militia of the Province the very favorable report which Major-General Riall has given him of the good conduct of the 2nd Regiment of Lincoln Militia in the attack that was made on the enemy's position near Chippawa on the afternoon of the 5th instant.

This small but gallant corps was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, whose zeal and exertions on this as on many former occasions are worthy of the highest commendation.

And His Honor trusts that the meritorious loyalty and bravery evinced by this corps will be anxiously emulated by every other regiment in the province, should they find themselves called upon to take up arms for the protection of their families and their property against an enemy who has so unnaturally and unjustly invaded their once peaceful and flourishing country.

By His Honor's command,

C. Foster,

Adjutant-General of Militia, Upper Canada.

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 12th, 1814.

Since the action of Chippawa the army has been reinforced by some detachments of regulars, a corps of bombardiers, (attached to the engineers,) and a body of General Porter's volunteers, about 600 strong, of infantry and mounted men.

General Porter to General Brown.

Queenston Heights, July 13th, 10 p. m.

Sir,—You must be aware how difficult it is to bring my scattered and multifarious force to act on short notice. I find too that provisions are out to-night, and that we must draw in the morning, which in itself will consume much time. No order can be communicated to-night to any effect, and to accomplish anything like the object proposed we must march out and back twenty-four miles in a straight line, besides the deviations *which I hope to make great.* We could not by any probability march before 10 o'clock in the morning.

I have some ambition for the honor of my corps, and if you can give me another day I will march at daylight, and, I trust, do something which will not discredit your command.

If I go to-morrow I can only promise a *fight* which, however, may prove disastrous. Another day will enable me to regulate my force so that I defy the *enemy.* Please direct.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to Major Orne, Inspector General.

———— July 13th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Would it not be well to station some officer under your charge at our S. E. picket on the Chippawa road, to attend to and dispose of the citizens, principally women, who are constantly thronging to the camp ?

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

———

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane to John W. Croker, Esq.

BERMUDA, 18th July, 1814.

SIR,—Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost having transmitted to me the copy of a letter which he has addressed to Lieutenant-General Drummond in consequence of the late disgraceful conduct of the American troops in the wanton destruction of private property on the north shore of Lake Erie, in order that, if the war with the United States continues, I may if I think proper, assist in inflicting that measure of retaliation which shall deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages.

I am most decidedly of opinion that the readiest way to attain this object is to bring home to the supporters of the Government which authorizes this unnatural system of warfare a full share of its dreadful calamities, and to this end I have issued to the senior officer of H. M. blockading squadron an order, accompanied by a secret memorandum of which I enclose copies together with copies of Sir George Prevost's letter, and its enclosure to be laid before My Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty.

ORDER FOR RETALIATION.

No. 1.

By the Honorable Alexander Cochrane, K. B., &c., &c., &c.

Whereas, by letters from His Excellency Lt.-Gen'l. Sir George Prevost of the 1st and 2nd of June last, it appears that the American troops in Upper Canada have committed the most wanton and unjustifiable outrages on the unoffending inhabitants, by burning their mills and houses and by a general devastation of private property. And whereas His Excellency has requested that in order to deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages I should assist in inflicting measures of retaliation.

You are hereby required and directed to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts as you may find assailable. You will hold strictly in view the conduct of the American army towards His Majesty's unoffending Canadian subjects, and you will spare merely

the lives of the unarmed American inhabitants of the United States. For only by carrying this retaliation into the country of our enemy can we hope to make him sensible of the impolicy as well as the inhumanity of the system he has adopted.

You will take every opportunity of explaining to the people how much I lament the necessity of following the rigorous example of the American forces.

And as these commanders must obviously have acted under instructions from the Executive Government of the United States, whose intimate and unnatural connections with the late Government of France have led them to a system of plunder and devastation, it is therefore to their own Government the unfortunate sufferers must look for indemnification for the loss of their property.

And this order is to remain in force until I receive information from Sir George Prevost that the Executive Government of the United States have come under an obligation to make full remuneration to the injured and unoffending inhabitants of the Canadas for all the outrages their troops have committed.

Given under my hand at Bermuda, 18th July, 1814.

ALEX. COCHRANE.

(Secret Memorandum to Accompany Foregoing Order.)

BERMUDA, 18th July, 1814.

Notwithstanding my public order of this day's date, directing you to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts of the enemy as may be within your power, you are hereby authorized to except such islands and places as, either from furnishing supplies or being likely to be hereafter occupied by us in furtherance of the objects of the war in which we are engaged, it may be more advantageous to ourselves to treat with a marked lenity and forbearance.

And if in any descent you shall be enabled to take such a position as to threaten the inhabitants with the destruction of their property, your are hereby authorized to levy upon them contributions in return for your forbearance and in proportion to the value of the private property thus spared.

But you will not by this understand that the magazines belonging to the Government, or their harbors or their shipping, are to be included in such arrangements; these, together with their contents, are in all cases to be taken away or destroyed.

A. COCHRANE.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 129, p. 144.)

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 19, 1814.

On Friday last several waggons in the employ of the United States were taken by the enemy near St. David's, four miles from Queenston. Seth Cotton of Buffalo and his team were among the captured.

Militia Order.

Headquarters, Right Division,
20-Mile Creek, 18th July, 1814.

Major-General Riall has the greatest satisfaction in making known to the Right Division the spirited conduct, vigilance, and activity of Adjutant Foster, Lieutenants Smith and Beam, who with a small detachment of the 1st Lincoln Militia spiritedly attacked a cavalry patrole of the enemy last night, immediately dispersed it, and made the officer prisoner.

The Major-General avails himself of this opportunity of paying a just tribute of approbation to the zeal, loyalty, and devotion which pervades all classes at the present moment. He anticipates the happiest results from their continued efforts to rescue their property and insulted families from the momentary violence of a rapacious and unprincipled invader. By order,

J. B. Glegg,
Major B. M.

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 26, 1814.

On Friday last three United States schooners arrived at Fort Erie from Erie, Pa., with rising 300 fine regular troops on board, who immediately joined the army.

General Order.

Headquarters, Heights, July 23rd, 1814.

The movement of the forces yesterday was made in good order and reflects honor on the troops. The promptness with which the volunteers ascended the heights and the zeal maintained afterwards by that corps and Captain Harris at the head of his troop, as well also as that of Capt. Chun and Lieut. Riddle in penetrating several miles into the country in pursuit of the retreating enemy, merits the General's approbation. It must be evident to every reflecting and observing officer that this army is too much encumbered with

baggage so as greatly to retard its movements, thus tending to destroy its efficiency as well as to impair its honor.

Therefore in order to retain its full and entire strength, to be able to act with promptness and to move with alacrity, the Major-General orders the baggage to be reduced as follow, to wit:—1 wall tent for each field officer and one common tent for the several waiters of the field officers of any regiment or battalion; to the officers of each company when not exceeding three, one W. tent, if more than three, the addition of one C. tent, and for every ten non-com. musicians and privates one C. tent, one C. kettle, one tin pan.

As regards to private baggage of officers, commandants of brigades or corps seeing the necessity, as they must, will exercise their ingenuity in curtailing it as far as practicable. This surplus baggage will *immediately* be collected by corps respectively and sent to the wharf, where it will be received and conveyed by the Q. M. General to the opposite shore and forwarded to Buffalo.

At the solicitation of the surgeons of the 9th and 23d Regiments one woman is permitted to be retained in each as *hospital matrons*. Surgeons of other regiments if they deem it necessary will do the same.

By command,
R. Jones.

General Porter to General Brown.

Fort Erie, U. C., July 28th, 1814.

Sir,—In compliance with the order to report the conduct of the several corps and of individuals engaged in the action of the 25th, it gives me great pleasure to state that the small part of my command, which by the operation of prior orders I was enabled to bring into the field, conducted (itself) in a manner to meet my most sanguine expectations. To my regret there had been previously detached from my command four companies, who were acting under Colonels Swift and Fenton on the east side of the Niagara; two companies were detained by your orders at Chippawa to protect the camp, and a considerable number were performing guard duties; the mounted men could not act in the night, so that the number actually brought into action did not exceed 300, and detachments from these were again made to carry wounded men and prisoners into camp. Although the volunteers came last into action, they were not idle after their arrival, having been conspicuously engaged with part of the regular troops in successfully repelling three desperate charges of the enemy's line to regain their artillery. On

passing the Chippawa the highest mortification was visible on every countenance on meeting an order to remain at that place, and the alacrity with which they passed to the scene of action when that order was countermanded was not less conspicuous. They fought with the coolness and discipline of regular troops, and it gives me pride to add that on subsequent inquiries I could not learn that a single *fugitive* from *this* corps straggled from the field of battle into camp.

Lieut.-Col. Dobbin, (N. Y. V.), although the state of his health could hardly excuse his taking the field and to which was added an uncomfortable wound in the breast received early in the action, continued throughout to do his duty. Major Wood (P. V.) excited universal admiration by his persevering bravery. In the first of the action he received a severe wound in his leg and had one arm bruised and wholly disabled by the fall of his horse, shot under him, yet he could not be prevailed on to retire, but continued to cheer his men by animating encouragements and his own example. Captain Hooper, (N. Y. V.), one of my best officers, fell gloriously at the head of his platoon. It is due to the memory of that worthy and gallant young man, Adjt. Poe, (P. V.), to say that he was not less admired for the cheerful and heroic fortitude which he displayed during the short time he survived his wounds than he was for his bravery in action. Q. Masters McClay and Green and others, whose duty did not require them in the line, volunteered their services, and the former was badly wounded in the head and leg. Lieut.-Col. Willcox of the Canadian Vols., (a corps which though small is surpassed by none in enterprise and bravery,) was most actively and usefully engaged during the whole action, and had his horse killed. My Brigade-Major Stanton, whose enterprise and intrepidity I have before reported to you, regardless of personal danger and zealous to be useful, was taken prisoner. He was employed in reconnoitreing, and in his first excursion, unattended by any other, took two prisoners and brought them in. In his second he ventured too far, and on returning, I am informed, took post in the enemy's line supposing it to be his own brigade, and did not discover his mistake until surrounded and his horse secured. My aid, Major Dox, though a young soldier, could not have behaved better. Fearless of danger, he was at every point where duty called, and greatly exposed. To prevent misconstruction, I should mention that my volunteer aid, Lieut. Frazer, 15th U. S. I., who now acts as my Brigade-Major, was absent, having been the preceding day ordered to Buffalo to collect the Indian warriors. I regret that the limits of a report will not permit me to particularize many other officers and men perhaps equally deserving, but I cannot

refrain from adding my testimony to the opinion which your own observations must have led you to form of Major Wood of the Engineers, who, though of the regular army, acted for a considerable time this night and on several former occasions with the volunteers, and who is always to be found where there is most danger. For sound judgment, quickness of perception, and promptness and effect of execution, he is excelled by no officer of the army.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Jasper Parrish to General Porter.

CANANDAIGUA, July 27th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the 25th instant the Onondaga chiefs and warriors passed through this place with their wounded Indians, on their way home. They say that they will return on the lines as soon as they can get through their little haying, if they could receive their pay for their past services.

On my return home from Buffalo I was taken with the rheumatism in my other leg and foot so bad that I have been confined at home for 15 days. I am a little better; do intend to-day to take my horse and ride up street. I am in hopes in a few days to be able to go out and attend to the Indian business.

Please to let me hear from you by the return of mail what your pleasure is respecting the Indians. I understand they have left the lines for the present. Your orders shall be faithfully attended to as far as I am able.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Extract of Brigade Order.

CAMP AT ERIE, July 28th, 1814.

To the field officers of the 1st and 23rd Regiments, Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas and Major Brooks, the Brigadier returns his thanks for their gallant conduct, particularly to the latter for his alacrity in rallying his troops. To Colonel Miller of the 21st Regiment he returns *more than his thanks*. He deserves the gratitude and approbation of the nation—never was an enterprize more heroically executed, never was the valor of a veteran more proudly displayed. The Brigadier-General was satisfied with the conduct of his staff, Lieutenant McDonald of the 19th and Lieutenant Clark of the 11th.

The officers of the brigade have to mourn the loss of Major

McFarland of the 23rd and Lieutenant Bigelow of the 21st. They died on that field where a soldier should pant to perish, gallantly leading and animating their men.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1814.)

Report of the Killed, Wounded and Missing of the Left Division of the Army Commanded by Major-General Brown in the Action of the Afternoon and Night of the 25th July, 1814, at the Falls of Niagara.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT ERIE, July 30th, 1814.

General Staff—wounded—1 major-general, 1 aid-de-camp.

Light Dragoons—killed—1 corporal; wounded—2 privates.

Artillery—killed—1 captain, 1 corporal, 8 privates; wounded—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 28 privates; missing—1 private.

First or Brigadier-General Scott's Brigade.

Brigade Staff—wounded—1 brigadier-general, 1 aid-de-camp, 1 brigade-major.

Ninth Infantry—killed—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 11 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 quartermaster, 1 paymaster, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 7 sergeants, 5 corporals, 69 privates; missing—1 subaltern, 1 sergeant-major, 2 sergeants, 11 privates.

Eleventh Infantry—killed—1 captain, 2 sergeants, 4 corporals, 21 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 1 chief musician, 7 sergeants, 3 corporals, 1 musician, 83 privates; missing—1 subaltern, 2 privates.

Twenty-second Infantry—killed—2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 33 privates; wounded—1 colonel, 2 captains, 4 subalterns, 9 sergeants, 11 corporals, 1 musician, 62 privates; missing—3 subalterns, 2 sergeants, 12 privates.

Twenty-fifth Infantry—killed—1 captain, 1 subaltern, 26 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster, 1 subaltern, 6 sergeants, 6 corporals, 50 privates; missing—1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 19 privates.

Second or Brigadier-General Ripley's Brigade.

First Infantry—killed—11 privates; wounded—2 subalterns, 18 privates; missing—1 corporal, 1 private.

21st Infantry—killed—1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 11 privates; wounded—1 captain, 5 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 53 privates; missing—19 privates.

23d Infantry—killed—1 major, 2 sergeants, 7 privates; wounded—1 captain, 6 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 43 privates; missing—3 sergeants, 2 corporals, 22 privates.

Brigadier-General Porter's Command.

Brigade Staff—1 brigade major missing.

Canadian Volunteers—killed—2 privates; wounded—2 privates; missing, 8 privates.

Pennsylvania Volunteers—killed—1 adjutant, 1 sergeant, 9 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 quartermaster, 1 subaltern, 21 privates; missing—1 captain.

New York Volunteers—killed—1 captain, 1 corporal, 2 privates; wounded—1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 9 privates; missing—1 subaltern.

Grand Total.

Killed—1 major, 1 adjutant, 5 captains, 4 subalterns, 10 sergeants, 10 corporals, 140 privates—171.

Wounded—1 major-general, 1 brigadier-general, 2 aids-de-camp, 1 brigade major, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 4 majors, 1 adjutant, 3 quartermasters, 1 paymaster, 7 captains, 32 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 1 chief musician, 34 sergeants, 29 corporals, 3 musicians, 449 privates—total, 572.

Missing—1 brigade-major, 1 captain, 6 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 8 sergeants, 5 corporals, 95 privates—total, 117.

C. K. GARDNER,
Adjutant-General.

Officers killed—Major McFarland, 23rd Infantry; Captain Ritchie, Corps of Artillery; Captain Hull, 9th Infantry; Captain Kinney, 25th do.; Captain Goodrich, 11th do.; First Lieutenant Bigelow, 21st do. First Lieutenant Turner, 9th do.; Second Lieutenant Burghart, 9th do.; Ensign Hunter, 25th do.; Captain Hooper, New York Volunteers; Adjutant Poe, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Officers wounded—Major-General Brown, severely, wounded through the thigh and in the side.

Captain Spencer, aid to the Major-General, through the body; supposed to be mortal.

Artillery—Captain Biddle, slightly, shot wound in the neck and arm; Second Lieutenant Campbell, badly, shot through the leg; Second Lieutenant Schmuck, severely.

First Brigade.

Brigadier-General W. S. Scott, severely, shoulder fractured and wounded in the side; Lieutenant J. D. Smith, 6th Infantry, Brigade-Major, badly, through the leg; Lieutenant Worth, 23rd Infantry, aid-de-camp, severely, grape shot in the thigh.

Ninth Infantry—Major Leavenworth, slightly, contusion in the side; Captain W. L. Foster, slightly, in the shoulder; Lieutenant and Paymaster Fowle, slightly, in the foot; Lieutenant and Quartermaster Browning, slightly, in the face; Second Lieutenant Fisher, severely, shot in the head and wrist; Third Lieutenant Cushman, slightly, in the thigh and shoulder; Ensign G. Jacobs, severely, shot in the knee; Ensign J. P. Jacobs, slightly, in the shoulder; Ensign Blake, slightly, in the knee.

Eleventh Infantry—Major McNeil, severely, canister shot in the knee; Captain Bliss, badly, shot in the leg; First Lieutenant Hall, slightly, shot in the thigh; Second Lieutenant Cooper, slightly, contusion in the breast; Third Lieutenant Brown, slightly, in the thigh; Ensign Bedford, slightly, hurt in the abdomen by a splinter; Ensign Thompson, (26th, doing duty in the 11th,) severely, shot wound in the side.

Twenty-Second Infantry—Colonel Brady, severely, shot wound in the side and hip; Captain Pentland, severely, wounded and a prisoner; Captain Foulk, severely, shot wound in the side; First Lieutenant Culbertson, severely, shot wound in the leg; First Lieutenant Ferguson, severely, shot in the hand from a canister; Second Lieutenant Armstrong, dangerously, shot wound in the shoulder; Third Lieutenant Bean, slightly, shot in the foot.

Twenty-Fifth Infantry—Major Jessup, severely, shot wounds in the hand and shoulder; Lieutenant and Adjutant Shaylor, severely, shot wounds in the arm and side; Lieutenant and Quartermaster McGlassin, badly, shot wound in the shoulder; Third Lieutenant Gifford, severely, shot wound in the hip.

Second Brigade.

First Infantry—1st Lieutenant Vasquez, slightly, shot in the thigh and bayoneted in the leg; 1st Lieutenant Bissell, slightly, in the leg.

Twenty-first Infantry—Captain Burbank, severely, shoulder fractured; 1st Lieutenant Cilley, severely, thigh fractured; 2nd Lieutenant Fisk (of the 19th, attached), slightly, in the breast; Ensign Jones, slightly, flesh wound in the wrist; Ensign Camp, (2d Rifle Regiment, attached,) flesh wound in the ankle; Ensign Thomas, slightly, contusion in the back.

Twenty-third Infantry—Captain Odell, severely, shot wound

in the arm; First Lieutenant H. Whiting, severely, in the neck; Second Lieutenant Ingersoll, slightly, in the foot; Second Lieutenant Tappan, slightly, in the head; Third Lieutenant Abeal, slightly, in the leg; Third Lieutenant Deidrich, slightly, in the arm; Third Lieutenant Lamb, severely, in the leg.

Brigadier-General Porter's Command.

New York Volunteers—Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin, slightly, shot in the breast; Lieutenant O'Fling, slightly, spent cannon shot in the shoulder.

Pennsylvania Volunteers—Major Wood, severely, musket shot in the arm and foot, and bruised by his horse being shot and falling on him; Quartermaster Maclay, severely, musket shots in the head and twice through the leg; Lieutenant Dick, severely, shot in the hand; Brigadier-General Porter was slightly wounded but declined being reported.

Officers missing:—

First Lieutenant Perry, 9th Infantry, a prisoner; Third Lieutenant Webster, 11th do., severely, shot in the head and taken prisoner; Lieutenants Sturgis, Keps, and Davidson, 22d Infantry, supposed to be killed.

Volunteers—Brigade-Major Stanton of New York, taken prisoner; Captain Roberts of Pennsylvania, taken prisoner; Lieutenant Hunt of New York, supposed to be killed.

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1814.

On the 25th instant the army, under command of Major-General Brown, camped above Chippawa near the battle ground of the 5th. At 4 p. m. information was received that the enemy had thrown a body of troops across the river at the Five-Mile Meadows, but the Commanding General was not diverted by this movement. The 1st Brigade, under General Scott, moved from Chippawa and halted at Bridgewater, a mile below Chippawa and near the Falls of Niagara. General S. learnt that the British force under Major-General Riall was approaching him. Battle was immediately given to the enemy near Mrs. Wilson's at half-past 5 p. m. Their cannon was placed about 200 yards from this position, on an eminence. The enemy's numerical force was much superior to General Scott's; his line was far extended, and he showed an inclination to flank. In order to counteract these views of General Riall, *he was fought in detachment, he was charged in column.* General S. was at the head of his troops in almost every charge. Captain Towson with his company of artillery attached to Scott's brigade kept up his fire

with great vigor and effect. The action was continued, and the ground maintained by General Scott for more than an hour before the reserve under General Ripley and the volunteers under General Porter were successfully brought into action.

The ground was obstinately contested until past 9 o'clock in the evening, when General Brown, perceiving that the enemy's artillery was most destructive, he decided to storm the *the battery.* Colonel Miller, the hero of Maguaga, was ordered on this enterprise; he approached the enemy's cannon with a quick step and delivered his fire within a few paces of the enemy's line, who, after having two or three fires and a vigorous charge, retreated to the bottom of the hill and abandoned the cannon. Only one piece was brought off the field, General Ripley's order not being executed or misunderstood. The enemy gave way and retreated, and our army was now employed in securing their prisoners and bringing off the wounded.

The cessation, however, was short. The enemy having received a reinforcement renewed the action, while our troops were employed in clearing the ground of wounded, but the gallant Americans formed with alacrity, and after an engagement of 20 m. the enemy was repulsed. The army now effected the removal of nearly if not all of the wounded and retired from the ground, it being nearly 12 o'clock at night. They returned to their encampment in good order. On the morning of the 26th our forces under Generals Ripley and Porter reconnoitred the enemy near the battle ground, returned and burnt Bridgewater Mills and all the enemy's barracks and the bridge at Chippawa and passed up the river to Fort Erie, where they made a stand.

The enemy's force engaged must have been nearly 5,000; ours short of that number. Major-General Riall was wounded and taken prisoner in the rear of his army by Captain Ketchum, together with one of his aids, the other being killed. An aid of Lieut.-General Drummond was made prisoner.

* * * * * * *

Major-General Brown was severely wounded in the thigh (besides a contusion on his body) in the hottest of the action, but continued to command until the enemy retired. Brigadier-General Scott was also severely wounded by a grape in the shoulder, besides a severe bruise occasioned by a shell or cannon shot, having lost 2 horses killed. Colonel Brady, 22d Infantry, Majors Jesup, 25th; Leavenworth, 9th; McNeil, 11th; Brig.-Major Smith, Lieutenants Campbell, Smouck, Art.: Lieut. Worth, aid to Gen. S., Ensign Camp, 2d Rifle Regt., together with many others whose names we have not learnt, were wounded, some badly.

The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was rising 800, exclusive of 200 regulars and 20 officers prisoners. Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing is from 600 to 700. Major McFarland, 23rd; Captain Ritchie, Art.: Captains Kinney, Hull and Goodrich, Lieutenant Bigelow, Inf., and other officers killed. Capt. Spencer, aid to General Brown, supposed to be mortally wounded but now said to be recovering. Major Stanton of N. Y. V., prisoner; Adjt. Pew, Pa. V., killed. Major Camp of the staff lost two horses on the field, but escaped a wound.

The enemy's troops, who made a dash at Lewiston, drove away the guard under Colonel Swift, took a small quantity of baggage and the effects of several sutlers, killed one of the volunteers and recrossed the river, and some of them were in the action.

The army remain at Fort Erie. That place by great exertions has been rendered very strong.

The enemy has advanced from Chippawa and has taken a position near Frenchman's Creek, 4 miles below Fort Erie.

Major Stanton to General Porter.

LITTLE YORK,
UPPER CANADA, July 28th, 1814.

HONORED SIR,—I am unfortunately a prisoner of war. I crossed to this place yesterday in the *Star*, commanded by Captain Dobbs, who is a fine gentleman. I have been treated very politely by the British officers. I expect to move from this place to-day for the Lower Province. Capt. Roberts of the Pennsylvania line, Lieut. Johnson of the Dragoons, and some other prisoners will accompany me.

Sir, I wish you to send my trunk, valise and bedding to my family, likewise this letter.

I am wishing for your influence for my exchange.

I am, with great respect, yours, &c.,

P. STANTON,
Prisoner of War.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Return of 1st Brigade, Fort Erie, July 31st, 1814.

	Present for Duty.		*Aggregate.*
	N. C. O. and Privates.	Officers.	Present and Absent.
9th Regt.	139	8	569
11th do.	293	11	624
22nd do.	218	10	408
25th do.	255	7	676
General staff.		4	4
	905	40	2281
2ND BRIGADE.			
1st Regt.	141	6	220
21st do.	441	20	849
23rd do.	292	12	713
General staff.		4	4
Total.	874	42	1786

Monthly Return of General Brown's Division, Fort Erie, July 31st, 1814.

Bombardiers, &c.	58	2	69
Light Dragoons, &c.	47	1	64
Artillery Corps.	241	12	364
First Brigade	905	40	2281
Second Brigade.	874	42	1786
Total.	2125	97	4564

(From Henry Adams's History of the United States. Vol. VIII., pp. 68-9.)

General Porter to Jasper Parrish.

FORT ERIE, July 31st, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment received yours of the 27th. It is the wish of Major-General Brown that the eastern Indians should return to the army as soon as possible, and that you should send a message to them to this effect without loss of time. At a meeting of the chiefs, two days ago, they requested that I would send a message to the eastern Indians to return to Buffalo immediately. They at the same time sent runners to Tonewanta, Catteragus, and Allegany, and to-day many of their warriors are coming in.

The warriors will be promptly paid for their services—probably as soon as they return. But I cannot myself undertake to settle the question whether they will receive pay for the time they are visiting their homes against the wishes of the General and when their services are much needed.

As soon as your health will permit I shall be much gratified to see you here.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE,
5th August, 1814.

Lieutenant-General Drummond has received the report of the officer to whose direction the force passed to the right bank of the river on the night of the 2nd inst. was confided. The indignation excited in the mind of the Lieut.-General from discovering that the failure of an expedition the success of which, by destroying the enemy's means of subsistence, would have compelled his force on this side to have surrendered to the troops by which he is invested, or by risquing an action with the Lieutenant-General in the field to have met certain defeat, has been solely caused by the misbehavior of the troops employed on this honorable service, will not permit him to expatiate on a subject so unmilitary and disgraceful. He has only to intimate therefore, that as it is to the officers that the soldiers must ever look up for an example of intrepidity and devotion, it is also the duty of all officers to punish with death on the spot of any man under their command who may be found guilty of misbehavior before the enemy. To the troops most particularly alluded to it is the Lieutenant-General's determination to afford an immediate opportunity of at once effacing from his mind the impression which the report of the officers and *his own observation* have produced, and of averting that report of their conduct which he shall feel it his indispensable and imperious duty to lay at the feet of his Sovereign.

Crouching, ducking, or laying down when advancing under fire are bad habits, and must be corrected.

The Lieutenant-General is happy to find that the officers employed on the late expedition appear to have done their duty.

By order of Lieutenant-General Drummond.

J. HARVEY,
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

(From Buffalo Gazette, 14th October, 1814.)

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 9th, 1814.

On Wednesday morning last the enemy crossed Niagara River below Squaw Island, one mile below Black Rock, with a force said to be rising 1,000 regulars under Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker. They approached Black Rock, and were met at the Conjocketa Creek before daylight by Major Morgan with less than 300 riflemen. A party of the enemy crossed the bridge over the creek, but were repulsed and the bridge taken up. The firing continued nearly three hours, when the enemy, finding every effort to cross the creek unavailing, recrossed the river.

During the action the enemy threw a number of shot and shells across the river.

The loss of the enemy must have been rising 50 killed, wounded, and missing. Some were found dead, and there were appearances of a number of bodies having been taken away during the battle. Six prisoners taken and three deserters. Our loss was 2 killed and 6 or 7 wounded, among whom were Captain Hamilton and Lieutenant McIntosh dangerously, and Lieutenant Wadsworth severely.

In this action Major Morgan and his corps have covered themselves with honor. The Major has been joined by Captain Birdsall with 150 riflemen since the action. The enemy, having been disappointed in gaining Buffalo, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon made a movement on our position at Fort Erie. They opened a fire on the fort from a large piece of artillery planted on a point about a mile below, which was answered from the fort and a schooner in the harbor. The enemy attacked our picquets with a large force, marched into the open ground in the rear of the fort, and commenced a heavy fire of musketry, which was warmly returned, and a brisk discharge from several pieces of artillery compelled him to retire in great confusion, leaving a number of his men on the field as the price of his temerity. The actual loss of the enemy we have not ascertained. We had a few wounded.

We have nothing important from the army at Fort Erie since the above. The enemy appears yet in considerable force opposite Black Rock. There has been skirmishing between the picquets almost every day during the past week, which are (*sic*) reported to be in our favor. On Saturday the enemy appeared in rear of the fort; he was met by a party of the riflemen and a smart skirmish ensued, in which, from the best information, he had 15 to 20 killed. Our loss was 4.

There has come in 6 or 7 deserters from the enemy within a few days past.

Brigadier-General Gaines has arrived at Fort Erie from Sackett's Harbor.

We understand that 1,000 militia have been requested by Major-General Brown from Major-General Hall's division; they will be commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Micah Brooks and are reported on their march for Buffalo.

General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT ERIE, U. C., August 5th, 1814.

Brigadier-General Gaines takes command of the army at this post and on the Niagara frontier. He will look at the different corps in front of their tents respectively to-morrow, at 10 a. m., when the whole are to appear armed and supplied ready for action. Fatigue will cease this evening and recommence at 12 to-morrow.

Should the enemy be discovered to approach the fort in *force*, the officer on duty at the battery from which they are first discovered will fire a cannon, which shall be the signal for every man to be at his post ready for action. No man is to fire until he receives the order of his immediate commanding officer, when he will be careful to make his shot *tell*. The General persuades himself that the gallant corps which he has the honor to command will make the enemy recollect the scenes of *Chippawa* and the *Falls of Niagara*, where this army has covered itself with imperishable glory and secured the approbation of a grateful country.

By order, Brigadier-General Gaines.

C. K. GARDNER, Adjt.-Genl.

J. C. Spencer to General Porter.

6 o'clock p. m., 6th August.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment arrived from the British shore. My poor brother died yesterday, a victim to British inhumanity. I brought him over to-day, and buried him in the soil which he died in defending. Our fleet has *certainly* arrived—four ships and four brigs. The enemy were yesterday moving down their sick and wounded, and I have no doubt but that they will make a desperate attack on Fort Erie this night or will retire, for they are miserably deficient in provisions, as far as I can learn. A recollection of our conversation, and Assistant-Brigade-Major Fraser, and no one else,

will explain to you the (illegible) direction of this letter. Show this to no one but Fraser.

(Written on the back of the following note:)

"In forwarding the enclosures Lieutenant-Colonel Barney is directed to acquaint Captain Spencer that it has been some time ago intimated to General Brown that Lieutenant-General Drummond is ready to exchange Captain Spencer for Captain Loring, A. D. C., to the Lieutenant-General.

2nd August.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)

Farmer's Brother's Speech, 7th August.

Now I am going to answer your speech of last night. Your request was for some chiefs to come over to you now:

BROTHER,—You requested us to counsel among ourselves on the business of last night. That we have considered and councilled and took into consideration to council on the principle that you and General Brown mentioned when you arrived at Buffalo. We sent runners at your request to call in the warriors. You asked us if we would join you or if we would give you up. That we answered we would not give you up as a last friend; that you know that we have lost a good many of our good friends; that we now have sent runners to every town, and they must come and answer for themselves; that the message that we sent for them to come to the Rock and stand in defence of their country; that you recollect that a few of the warriors was on that side of the river; that you told them you did not want them on that side of the river; that General Brown told us to collect all the warriors on this side; that General Brown must recollect that he told Jack Berry that the Indian warriors must stay on this side; that he told the Cataragus chiefs and warriors the same; that we and all that will come in will expect to be stationed at the Rock; that we are fully determined to stand in defence of our women and children.

That you recollect that we asked you if we would remove our women, and you said no.

Now, my friend, we will ask you a question:

What is the reason that your militia is all left this place: that we see every one of them is gone or going? That you must know that what few of us is here cannot fight the enemy; that we know and you know that a strong force is the main object in fighting.

You see, sir, that my opinion was correct, and I will go home.

R. FLEMING.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)

General Porter to Governor Tompkins.

FORT ERIE, U. C., August 9, 1814.

SIR,—Did I not know that General Brown had written to you on the subject, my duty would have required me before this time to inform that with a force not exceeding 25 or 2,700 effective men we are invested by the British army, estimated at 4,500, and by many at 5,000 men, composed of everything they could collect on this side of Kingston and 3 regiments (De Watteville, Glengarry, and 89th,) drawn from that post since the crossing of General Brown. They are preparing their batteries, which we cannot prevent as their working parties are in the wood, supported by their whole army, and should they not conclude to *storm* the place, will probably open upon us within twenty-four hours. What will be the result I know not, but our army is composed of stuff which will not yield to trifles. Its numbers and spirits must, however, waste rapidly under such a siege as we are to expect. Our position is a wretched one, closely surrounded by woods which are occupied by the enemy, and with no other defences excepting such as we have erected since our return from Chippawa.

Is it possible that the State of New York will sit with her arms folded and see this army, deserving a better fate, sacrificed? With 3,000 men, which, if there had been any patriotism in the country, would have been with us before this time, we should not only be relieved but we might *with certainty* capture the whole British army in thirty days. But it is characteristic of the present war not to act when wisdom and prudence require action, but to temporize until necessity, *absolute necessity*, drives us to it. Do not think that I despond. I feel prouder and richer and better than the miserable speculators who are hoarding up their gold, regardless of their own or their country's character. We shall not fall. *If we do*, it will be after a struggle that that will reflect no dishonor upon ourselves, whatever it may upon the country.

I wish for your answer to my letter of the 31st. My command is such that I am sure you will not insist upon my staying here. I shall not, however, though discharged, leave this place until the crisis is passed.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Porter to General Gaines.

FORT ERIE, August 15th, 1814.

SIR,—In the brilliant action of this morning, (affording in its most happy result the highest evidence of the skill as well as valor

with which it was fought,) it was the good fortune of but a small part of my brigade, and such indeed was the case with the infantry of the other brigades, to come to close action with the enemy.

Early in the action Captain Boughton of the N. Y. volunteers, with his dismounted dragoons and a detachment of 120 men, taken equally from the New York and Pennsylvania volunteers, under command of Captain Harding of the former, were sent to the support of the right of the army, comprising the space from the fort to the lake and defended by Capt. Foster's battalion of the 9th and Lieut. Douglass with two pieces of artillery. Capt. Boughton took post between Lieut. Douglass and the lake, and Capt. Harding between Capt. Foster and the fort, both without the benefit of intrenchments. The conduct of these several corps on the right of the fort, all commanded by Captain Foster and not exceeding 300 men, is spoken of in the highest terms of praise by every officer who visited that part of the line during the engagement, and was, I believe, witnessed by yourself. They were completely successful in repelling the left column of the enemy under Colonel Scott, which attacked and was intended to penetrate at that point. Some smaller detachments from my brigade, ordered to other points of attack, were immediately ordered back as being unnecessary.

The enemy showed some force, (now presumed to be the party under Lieutenant-Colonel Nichol,) in the margin of the woods opposite the centre of our line, and two or three officers on horseback approached to reconnoitre us in that direction, and every appearance indicated an immediate advance of a column on our centre, and I speak with great confidence when I say that a most anxious wish for the approach of such a column pervaded nine-tenths of the volunteer corps, and an unshaken determination to repel it at every extremity.

In short, Sir, I feel entirely satisfied with the conduct of the whole of my brigade, and I am fearful that your object in calling for this report, which is to ascertain the relative merits of particular men and corps, may not in this instance be attained, inasmuch as I should do injustice to others by naming any one, further than to state the particular duty to which it was assigned. Captain Harding's command went in pursuit of the enemy, after his retreat, for some distance, and captured and brought in a small party, and killed their officer, who refused to surrender.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)

Jasper Parrish to General Porter.

BUFFALO, August 15th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I received your letter while I was at Canandaigua and immediately sent on the contents of it to the chiefs of the Oneida and Onondaga Indians, with a request for them to return immediately. I have not heard from it as yet.

I came here three days ago; brought on and paid over six thousand dollars to the Seneca Nation, being their annuity.

Since I left home my lame foot has gathered and broke. It has become a bad running sore. I can move but a little distance without my horse. My present calculation is to return home on Wednesday next in the stage, as I cannot stand it to ride a horseback so far. If you should have any commands please to let me hear from you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General E. P. Gaines to General Porter.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, U. C.,
August 16th, 1814.

SIR,—You are hereby authorized to accept for the U. S. the services of four thousand volunteers, or less, for one, two or three months, unless sooner discharged by proper authority, to rendezvous, be organized, mustered, inspected, and provisioned at or near Williamsville, as soon as practicable; to have the choice of their own officers according to law, and be subject to the same rules and regulations, receive the same pay, and be provided for in case of being killed or wounded, &c., as United States volunteers, agreeable to law. This corps will not be ordered on duty unusual or improper for this description of force.

I shall not undertake to persuade my young countrymen to come out to the tented field. They have heard the eloquence of our cannon for some days past. This, I am sure, is fully sufficient to excite their military ardour and call them to the field, where American troops if true to themselves will never fail to reap honorable victory over foreign slaves and mercenaries.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Brigade Order.

FORT ERIE, August 16th, 1814.

Br.-General Porter is ordered to the eastward for a few days by the Com'g General on a command highly interesting to his brigade and to the army at large. Lt.-Col. Dobbin will also be absent for about the same period.

During the absence of the Brigadier the command of the brigade will devolve on Colonel Swift. He being, however, now on the opposite side of the river and in a bad state of health, Lt.-Col. Willcox, the next senior officer of the brigade, will take command until his arrival. Gen'l. Porter entrusts the command to either of these gentlemen with great confidence, and is confident that their orders will be promptly obeyed.

Brigade-Major Fraser will accompany General Porter, and during his absence Adjutant Dobbin will perform the duties of his office.

The high character which the volunteers have established throughout the country by their orderly and gallant conduct, he trusts will be maintained during his absence.

Maj. Wood will command the Pennsylvania and Major Matteson the New York Volunteers.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Wood, U. S. Engineers, to General Ripley.

FORT ERIE, August 15th, 1814.

SIR,—In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to report the gallant conduct of my command during the attack which took place on the night of the 14th instant.

I cannot do greater justice to the troops which I had the honor to command on that occasion than to state that the 21st Infantry, together with a small detachment of the 11th under Captain Chunn, in all about three hundred men, aided by the skill and activity of that distinguished officer, Captain Towson of the Artillery, who commanded the battery on Snake Hill, met and repulsed five impetuous charges given by Colonel Fisher at the head of fourteen hundred British regulars. These troops were formed in columns of attack, and stormed without flints in their muskets. Our lines were completely manned, and everything ready to receive the enemy when he approached. And perhaps a more signal example of firmness and steady valor was seldom, if ever, given by the veterans of Europe. Finding himself repulsed at all points with great slaughter, Colonel Fisher saw fit to retire with his shattered columns at dawn of day.

For the happy result which crowned our arms at this particular point I am under great obligations to Captains Marston and Ropes, the former of whom commanded on the left, and the latter commanded the corps of reserves which repulsed the enemy at the edge

of the water after he had turned the left of the *abatis* and completely gained my rear. Captain Chunn, who commanded on my right, had not the good fortune to come in contact with the enemy until he was sent to reinforce the garrison at Fort Erie, where he had a fair opportunity and behaved with great skill and bravery in expelling the enemy from that place. The small reinforcements of riflemen which arrived before the enemy made his last charge, under that brave officer, Captain Birdsall, rendered me considerable service.

Lieutenants Bowman, Riddle, Hall, Larned, and Ensigns Bean, Neely, Green, Jones, Cumming and Thomas were all extremely active, and performed their duty with alacrity. I have to regret that the army is deprived of the services of Lieutenant Bushnell and Ensign Cissney, both of whom are severely if not mortally wounded. Our trophies in the morning were about one hundred and twenty prisoners and a considerable number of scaling ladders picks, axes, &c.

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 16th August, 1814.

Our army at Fort Erie continues almost daily to skirmish with the enemy, which is principally confined to the attack of piquets on both sides. There has been more or less cannonading every day during the week past, without any material advantage to either. On Wednesday a party of riflemen under Captain Birdsall attacked and drove in the enemy's picket. They lost from 15 to 20 killed. We lost only one man. On Friday last Major Morgan with a detachment from his rifle corps attacked the enemy in the skirts of the woods back of the fort, and after a brisk musketry of some time, retired to the fort with the loss of 10 or 12 killed, among whom, we regret to say, was that excellent officer, Major Ludowick Morgan, of the 1st Rifle Regiment, who so gallantly repulsed the enemy at Conjockety Creek on the morning of the 3d instant. He was interred at Buffalo on Saturday, with all the honors due his rank and distinguished bravery.

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 16, 1814.

Two companies of the 19th Regiment arrived in Buffalo on Thursday evening last from Erie, Pa.

The detached militia, under Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks, are stationed at Williamsville.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane to James Monroe, Secretary of State.

H. B. M. Ship *Tonnant*, in the
Patuxent River, 18th August, 1814.

SIR,—Having been called upon by the Governor-General of the Canadas to aid him in carrying into effect measures of retaliation against the inhabitants of the United States for the wanton destruction committed by their army in Upper Canada, it has become imperiously my duty, conformably with the nature of the Governor-General's application, to issue to the naval force under my command an order to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast as may be found available.

I had hoped that this contest would have terminated without my being obliged to resort to severities that are contrary to the usage of civilized warfare, and as it has been with extreme reluctance and concern that I have found myself compelled to adopt this system of devastation, I shall be equally gratified if the conduct of Executive of the United States will authorize my staying such proceedings, by making reparation to the suffering inhabitants of Upper Canada, thereby manifesting that if the destructive measures pursued by their army were ever sanctioned they will no longer be permitted by the Government.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 129, p. 150.)

General Peter B. Porter to the Militia of Western New York.

To the Militia of the Western Counties of New York:

The Commander in Chief has ordered a portion of the militia to the western frontier, and thought proper to place them under my command. You will indulge me, because I am probably better acquainted with the state of things to the west than most of you, to make a few remarks on the subject of this call.

The Niagara frontier at this moment presents a scene infinitely more interesting to you than any you have witnessed since the settlement of the country. Two hostile armies of nearly equal force, not a mile distant from each other, obstinately contending for mastery, which a few days must necessarily decide. In these two armies are concentrated all the disposable military force and all the arms and munitions of war of the Province of Upper Canada and of the western parts of the State of New York, and on the result of the contest which must shortly ensue will depend the fate of these countries respectively. Should the enemy succeed there is nothing on this side Utica that can resist his force or escape his ravages. In

the late attack on Erie, so gloriously repulsed, he had 400 savages in sight of our intrenchments, ready to leap in should the scales of victory incline to his side, and complete the work of destruction, and this same scourge will follow him through the country the moment that the army, its only barrier, shall be broken down.

The enemy are not asleep nor do they look with listless indifference to those who are fighting *their* battles. They will push on reinforcements as fast as their scanty means and devastated country will permit. Now is the time for *us* to act. We abound with men and means, and by a prompt and cheerful compliance with the order of the Commander-in-Chief, and by that means only we can effect a certain and easy conquest and give permanent security to our settlements.

If the fate of the gallant little army which for six weeks past has been wading through fields of blood for your security, composed in part, too, of your own immediate neighbors and friends, cannot move you to action, I admonish you to recollect that on the support, and immediate and vigorous support, of that army depends your own security. That army destroyed, and your fruitful fields, your stately edifices, and your fair possessions are laid waste. Your women and children will feel the weight of the tomahawk. Nay, even liberty itself, without which those blessings are of no estimation in a patriot's heart, will forsake a country so unworthy of her protection.

At the request of the Commander-in-Chief I came to this place (where I unexpectedly met the order of His Excellency) for the purpose of obtaining volunteers, and hoping that I might have some little influence in awakening our young men to a sense of the country's danger and their own honor. But what can I expect to effect with those whose ardor cannot be aroused by the eloquence of the cannon with which the Niagara is continually resounding? Those, however, who may choose to volunteer, will be received as part of the detachment ordered by the Commander-in-Chief, and I shall return immediately to Erie, proud to share the destiny of its brave defenders, whatever they may be. But I do not return without hopes of soon meeting at the appointed place of rendezvous such of you, at least, as the constituted authorities of the country have called on for support.

P. B. Porter, Brig.-Gen.

Canandaigua, August 21, 1814.

(From Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1814.)

State of New York—General Order.

The Commander-in-Chief, under and pursuant to the Act of Congress passed 28th February, 1795, and the Acts supplementary and additional thereto, directs the following detachments of infantry to be made from the division commanded by Major-General Hall, exclusive of the requisition made by Major-General Brown for one thousand men, which Major-General Hall is also required to complete. The detachment required by this order will be made without any delay, and are directed to rendezvous at Williamsville, in the County of Niagara, on the 1st day of September next, where they will be organized:

From the brigade of General Tillotson, Cayuga county, 1,000 men.

General Graham, Seneca county, 350.

General Burnet, east part of Ontario, 560.

General Wadsworth, west part of Ontario, 560.

General McClure, Steuben county, 350.

General Davis, Genesee county, 180.

And all the companies of grenadiers, riflemen, and light infantry within the counties of Cayuga and Seneca, together with the artillery companies in Auburn and Geneseo, are also directed to assemble at the same place of rendezvous on the first day of September next. Independent companies, companies of exempts, and other associations who tender their services are to be accepted and organized by General Peter B. Porter, who will command the whole detachment.

Every soldier must furnish himself with a musket or rifle, knapsack, canteen, cartridge box, three flints, a watch coat, and clothing for three months. Those who are unable to equip themselves with muskets and rifles or cartridge boxes will be supplied from the public deposit, but it is required by the Commander-in-Chief that all who can supply themselves should do so. The militia thus detached will be organized into companies of 100, including one captain, two lieutenants, two ensigns, five sergeants, six corporals, one drummer, and one fifer to each company. The companies will be formed into regiments of 1,000 men as near as may be, including officers, with two lieutenant-colonels and two majors as field officers. Brigadier-General Peter B. Porter will have the immediate command of the whole detachment, subject to the orders and directions of the Commander-in-Chief. Lieutenant-Colonels Hugh W. Dobbin, Peter Allen, Caleb Hopkins, George W. Flemming, and James McBurney, and Majors Thomas Lee, Jr., Daniel Cruger, Eranthus Everts, and Eben. Willson of Genesee are assigned to the respective regiments in this detachment; the remainder of the

field and staff officers will be assigned by Brigadier-General Peter B. Porter. The captains and subalterns will be assigned by the commandants of the respective brigades. The independent uniform companies will be commanded by their own officers or by so many of their own officers as will be in proportion to the number of men, and if, on their arrival at the place of rendezvous, the officers of any corps be more than in proportion to the number of men, such supernumerary officers as the commandant of the whole detachment shall direct will be discharged. The troops will receive the same accommodation and pay as are provided for the army.

The Commander-in-Chief feels assured that the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates will evince the greatest alacrity in complying with this order. The present situation of our country loudly demands vigorous exertions. The Niagara frontier presents a scene which must necessarily arouse the feelings of Americans and urge them on to the relief of their countrymen. On one side of the river an important American post in possession of the enemy —on the other, Fort Erie occupied by the American army. The latter pressed by a superior force without the power of retreating. Too great a delay may enable the enemy to reinforce in such numbers as to become irresistible to the troops now across the Niagara, and that gallant little army, the hardy remnant of several well fought battles, in which they have as often defeated as they have engaged their foe, will fall a sacrifice to the want of patriotism and philanthropy, to the inertness and the apathy of their fellow-citizens. Should this army be destroyed the whole of the western frontier of this State will be exposed to the ravages, the devastation, the burnings, and the murders of a merciless foe.

The Commander-in-Chief has, however, the utmost confidence that not a man will be called on at the present time whose arm will not be raised in defence of his country, and who will not feel the responsibility of his conduct and bring a corresponding zeal to the place where his duty and the safety of his fellow-citizens require his presence.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

JOHN B. YATES,
Lieut.-Col. and Aid-de-Camp.

(From Buffalo Gazette, August 30, 1814.)

Division Orders.

HEADQUARTERS,
BLOOMFIELD, 22d August, 1814.

Pursuant to General Orders of this date, the Commandants of Brigades will detail the requisite number of officers and men agreeable to the apportionment and direction for equipment directed to be made therein, and order them to march without delay to the place of rendezvous.

The Commandants of Brigades will also complete the requisition of 1000 men, directed to be detached by a division order of the 29th ult., and unless such requisition shall be completed without recourse to a new draft, orders will be given by Commandants of Brigades to Commandants of Regiments to complete their several complements directed to be be detailed by that order, and see them marched forthwith to the place of rendezvous appointed, and report themselves to Lieutenant-Colonel Micah Brooks.

The Major General in addition to the incentives held forth in the General Order for promptitude at this eventful crisis, can only appeal to the pride of both officers and soldiers of his division, exhorting them not to suffer themselves to be surpassed in their exertions by the other divisions of the State, at a time of universal alarm, when personal inconvenience ought to be sacrificed for the public weal.

The General is persuaded that the good name of his division, acquired by former exertions, will not at this time be tarnished by an indifference to this righteous call of their country.

A. HALL,
Major-General.

By Heman Norton, A. D. C.

(From Buffalo Gazette, August 30, 1814.)

Buffalo Gazette, 23d August, 1814.

Ninety men of the 21st Regiment, under Lieut. Pratt, have arrived at Buffalo.

The enemy's loss in deserters is very considerable; 6 or 7 come in at a time.

During the week past the enemy have frequently troubled our picquets, but keep at a respectful distance from the fort. On Saturday a smart skirmish ensued, which was supported on both sides, and it continued warmly for 20 or 30 minutes. We lost Lieut. Yates of the rifle corps, and 6 or 7 men killed. Another lieutenant of the same corps was wounded. The loss of the enemy is supposed to be much greater.

General Brown to General P. B. Porter.

AURORA, Aug. 25th, 1814.

DEAR GENRL.,—I intend to arrive at Canandaigua in the course of Tuesday next, on my way to Fort Erie. If you have not left that place upon the receipt of this I desire you to remain until my arrival, as I have some important intelligence to communicate to you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Colonel Edward Baynes to Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Drummond.

(An Intercepted Letter.)

HEADQUARTERS,
MONTREAL, August 26th, 1814.

SIR,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces to inform you that the 37th Regiment will commence its march to-morrow morning for Kingston, on which point it is His Excellency's intention to direct the other corps composing the brigade under the orders of Major General Kempt.

If the naval equipment is in that state of forwardness to sanction the undertaking, the attack, and if necessary to Lieutenant-General Drummond, the siege of Sackett's Harbor, in which the squadron must be prepared fully to co-operate before the advanced state of the season renders such an operation hazardous and difficult, it is His Excellency's wish to avail himself of the local information and talents of Major General Kempt, by employing him as the senior Major General on this service, and with that view His Excellency would approve of Major General Stovin proceeding to the Right Division when relieved, and leaving to Major General Kempt the necessary preparatory arrangements for this arduous and important service. Should this, however, as His Excellency is apprehensive, prove to be the case that the delay in naval arrangements may frustrate his views on Sackett's Harbor, he still trusts that our squadron will be able to take the lake with a superiority that will enable him completely to relieve all the wants of Right Division, and not only to secure effectually our own frontier, but to scour that of the enemy, destroy his means of annoyance, and on this service he would propose to employ the force to be collected at Kingston.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, October 4th, 1814.)

General George McClure to General P. B. Porter.

BATH, 26th August, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—My Brigade Major, John Wilson, is anxious to be employed. He is a vigilant and active officer. Should you think proper to assign him a command you will please inform him or me by express mail. The detachment from my brigade is ordered to assemble at this place on the 30th inst., and will proceed with all possible speed to Williamsville via Canandaigua.

I fear there will be but a small proportion of them appear on the day of rendezvous, and unless some effectual mode of punishing delinquents is speedily adopted future calls on militia will be useless. Such is the language of those who have and are still willing to do their duty.

I sincerely congratulate you on your good success so far. I trust the campaign will terminate much to your honor and the glory of our American arms. Should Chauncey continue to ride triumphant on the lake we would have but little fear on our frontier.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 30, 1814.

Since last paper the enemy have fired upon the encampment at Fort Erie and done considerable mischief with shells and round shot, but keep *their distance* from the works. On Saturday Lieut. Felton of Clarence, belonging to General Porter's volunteers, was killed. We learn that about 20 men were killed and wounded the same day.

On Sunday Brigadier-General Gaines was wounded by the bursting of a shell, which produced a severe contusion in the side. Brevet Brig.-Gen. Miller commands at Fort Erie.

Seventy troops, belonging to the 11th Infantry, have joined their regiment at Fort Erie from Burlington, Vt.

About 20 Indians appeared at Lewiston last week and captured several horses. The inhabitants have removed back beyond the 11-Mile Woods.

A dragoon and a soldier belonging to the 25th Regt., taken prisoners at the Falls, escaped from the hospital near Fort George and crossed the Niagara on a raft of rails. They state that the enemy burnt our dead that were left on the field at the battle of the Falls, and corroborate the account of the enemy being very sickly.

The British *hung*, on the 20th July, eight citizens at Burlington

for treason; six more were sentenced, but respited until the pleasure of the Prince Regent was known. A Mr. Hopkins, formerly from this side and who carried on the saddlery business at or near Queenston, was *hung* last week, since which his widow has crossed at Lewiston.

Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 30th August, 1814.

On Thursday last at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy attacked our outposts in the edge of the woods north of Fort Erie. Captain Wattles of the 23d Infantry was ordered to support the picket with 100 men. The enemy was driven to his defences and opened a fire from his line. Before our party retired, Captain Wattles and 2 privates were killed and 4 or 5 privates wounded. 30 British muskets were picked up where the enemy commenced the attack.

Return of Division of United States Troops at Fort Erie, August 31st, 1814.

	Present for Duty.		*Aggregate.*
	N. C. O. and Privates.	Officers.	Present and Absent.
Dragoons	27	1	48
Bombardiers, &c	34		51
Artillery Corps	206	10	369
First Brigade	725	39	2311
Second do.	698	42	1646
Porter's do.	220	16	599
First and Fourth Rifles	217	11	504
Total	2127	119	5528

(From Henry Adams's History of the United States, Vol. VIII., p. 83.)

Lieutenant-Colonel George Fleming to General Porter.

WILLIAMSVILLE, September 4th, 1814,
Half-past 11 o'clock a. m.

DEAR SIR,—I have this instant received your letter by express. I was just about setting out for Buffalo when it was handed to me. Since my receiving information yesterday that the militia are to be organized at Buffalo, I have exerted myself and got them to go immediately and without the least delay at this place.

They who were absolutely in want of provisions, got them served to them immediately. The militia have continually, since my arrival here, been flocking in by companies and passing on, and I am happy to find they continue in high spirits and full of fight. Colonel Nicholas had teams ready to take the spare muskets on prior to my receiving your letter. Two companies of riflemen are now marching in here. As soon as they draw provisions, which they are now in immediate want of, they will pass on. I assure you I have been very busy in getting the militia on before and since I arrived here. On my leaving this place, Colonel Nicholas will continue directing the militia to go on.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major-General Brown to Commodore Chauncey.

HEADQUARTERS,
BUFFALO, September 4th, 1814.

SIR,—Your letter of the 10th ult., after going the rounds, was delivered to me a few days since on my way to this place.

The exception you take at my letter to the Secretary would be very reasonable and proper, provided the fleet of Lake Ontario was your private property, over which the Government had no control. But as I have been induced to believe that it was the property of the nation, subject to the orders of the Government, and as the Government led me to believe that the fleet under your command would be upon Lake Ontario to co-operate with my division of the army the first week in July, I have deemed it but proper to let the nation know that the support I had a right to expect was not afforded. I consider my conduct towards yourself and the navy not only honorable, but, Sir, as being very liberal and friendly, from the date of my report of the battle of Sackett's Harbor to the present time. The troops under my command have always been disposed of so as to meet your views to the extent of my power and authority, and as far as was consistent with the rights and honor of the army.

Your information appears very incorrect as to the situation of the army previous to the arrival of reinforcements under Lieutenant-General Drummond. From the ninth of July to the 24th, the whole country was in our power from Fort George to Burlington Heights, and could the army have been supplied with provisions from the depots provided on the shores of Lake Ontario, we should not have doubted our ability (without reinforcements or additional guns) to carry the Heights, when we could have returned upon

Forts George and Niagara or advanced upon Kingston (as might have been thought most advisable) with the co-operation of the fleet.

You speak of responsibility. I do not desire you or any man to be responsible for me. I have endeavored to execute the orders given me. Success has not attended my endeavors, but I humbly trust in heaven that the honor of the brave men entrusted to my command has been and will be preserved, let what may, happen.

It will be very difficult to retire from Fort Erie, pressed as the remains of my gallant little army are by a superior force of the enemy. But no other alternative will be left unless reinforcements speedily arrive. The militia are coming in in very considerable numbers, but it is not yet ascertained how many of them will cross. The Secretary has given me to understand that General Izard would move to the St. Lawrence with a view of attacking Kingston, (should he and you deem that measure advisable); should you decide otherwise, that General Izard would come with or send me a reinforcement of from two to three thousand men.

I have not heard from General Izard, and begin to apprehend that something has occurred to retard or prevent his movement. I will thank you for any information you can give me on this subject.

(From Niles' Register, Baltimore, Saturday, October 29th, 1814.)

Major A. Matteson to General Ripley.

FORT ERIE, Sept. 5th, 1814.

SIR,—In obedience to your request, I transmit a hasty detail of the affair of yesterday. About half-past 2 o'clock p. m., Col. Willcocks called on me and signified that it was your pleasure the N. Y. Volunteers should immediately march to reinforce picket No. 2. At the call officers and men rallied with an alertness that evinced a spirit to avenge our country's wrongs, and in about twenty minutes all our corps on the ground fit for duty were on the march, but owing to the late extreme fatigue we did not muster more than about 100 rank and file, exclusive of those on duty and officers commanding in the expedition. We proceeded on the line of the sentinels of No. 2 to its extreme right, where Col. Willcocks called a council of such officers as could in our disagreeable situation (on account of the fallen timber) be called together without delaying our progress. On account of some recent occurrences the Col. expressed a delicacy in ordering, and desired that I should command the troops. Perceiving, as I did, that his undaunted valor had acquired the entire confidence of officers and soldiers, I told him I

would follow where he would lead. On a momentary consultation a charge was agreed on, with a determination to drive the enemy from their position. The companies of Captains Harding, Freeman, and Davis attacked and pursued them through an avenue in the fallen timber on the right, while Captains Hull, Knapp, and Lieut. Hathaway, commanding Capt. Tozer's company, who was sick at the time, endeavored to flank them through another avenue on our left. On the right we immediately drove them from their position and entered within their outer breastwork in fair view of their battery, where we maintained our position about 15 or 20 minutes, when Col. Willcocks received a mortal wound by a shot through the right breast, when he, together with all those injured, were bore off. Discovering their force to be vastly superior to ours and rapidly reinforcing, we gave them two volleys, a cheer for victory, and retired in good order. In the meantime Captains Hull, Knapp, and Lieut. Hathaway were engaged, and driving them until they were reinforced and prudence required that they should cheer their victory and retire, which they performed, in unison with those on the right. Of the officers and men generally engaged, I can proudly say they, (agreeably to my view,) behaved with spirit and manner characteristic of Spartan bravery, and all appeared anxious to excell in ardor of pursuit and all obedient to orders given. Of Col. Willcocks I take pleasure in announcing that in every movement he behaved worthy of a hero and a patriot. Calm and unruffled, he rushed on in defence of our country's rights until he fell entwined with the laurels of glory. Capts. Harding, Hull, Lt.-Col. Satterlee, who volunteered his services to command Capt. Freeman's company (who was sick, absent), and Capt. Knapp, together with Lieuts. Roosevelt and Hathaway, commanding Capts. Davis' and Tozer's companies (who were sick, absent), contributed greatly in facilitating every movement. Their steady and determined manner characterized them as worthy of the name of true *American Warriors.* I cannot speak too highly of their efforts to aid my exertions. Qr.-Mastr. Green, Asst. Br.-Maj. Dobbin, and Act. Adj. Gilbert volunteered their services and participated in all the dangers of the battle, and from them I found great assistance, and found them meritorious in common with the other officers. It is impossible for me to ascertain the loss of the enemy, but by the discovery of several dead bodies on the ground over which we advanced their loss must have been extremely severe in comparison to ours. I transmit a schedule of the loss in killed and wounded.

Schedule.

Lieut.-Col. Willcox, } killed.
Lieut. Roosevelt, }
1 sergt., mortally wounded.
2 do. slightly do.
1 corporal, do. do.
2 privates, killed.
2 do. slightly wounded.
1 missing in action.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major Matteson to Brigadier-General Porter.

I have thought fit to transmit you a copy of my report of yesterday to General Ripley, and to remark that on delivery of the report to the General he expressed great satisfaction and remarked that it was a critical action, and informed me that by the best information he could obtain by deserters who have come into camp, that the loss on the part of the enemy in this affair was, in killed 1 major, 1 captain, 2 subalterns and about 100 rank and file killed, wounded and missing. I would further remark that in the body of my report to Gen'l. Ripley, in mentioning the officers engaged, I omitted Ensign Wickwire of Captain Tozer's company and Jones of Captain Knapp's, who I found were engaged on the left and acted with great bravery.

A. Matteson,
Maj. Com'g. N. Y. Vol.

Fort Erie, September 6th, 1814.

N. B.—You will have the goodness to show this to Major Markle and other officers of the same corps, as it may be a gratification to them on account of the present sentiments of the N. Y. Vols. towards the late Col. Willcocks. A. M.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Organization Order.

Buffalo, Sept. 6, 1814.

The following companies are attached to Lt.-Col. Dobbin's regiment, viz.:

Capt. Parker's company of detached militia from Seneca.
" Fleming's do do do
" Colegrove's do do do

Capt. Richardson's company riflemen.
" Swick's do do
" Butler's do do

Lt.-Col. Dobbin will proceed with all possible despatch to organize the above companies, drill, and prepare them for active service.

P. B. PORTER,
B'r.-Gen'l. Com'g.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Asa Danforth to General Porter and Jasper Parrish.

ONONDAGA, 7th September, 1814.

GENTLEMEN,—In the absence of Mr. Hopper your letter, enclosing one directed to the chiefs and warriors of the Onondaga Nation, was received by his deputy and the latter was handed by him to me for the purpose of communicating to the Indians. I immediately attended to it, but found so many of them sick with the smallpox that I did not deem it advisable for them to hold a council or to go to the frontier in their present situation. This disorder, which was brought by some of them from the Niagara frontier, I am sorry to say continues among them, and has carried off a number of them. Vaccination has, however, been lately used among them, and I am in hopes will prevent the further progress of the disorder. I have no doubt that they would have immediately joined our standard had their situation permitted of it.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Order.

BUFFALO, Sept. 8, 1814.

It is impossible for Br. Gen'l. Porter to express the pride and satisfaction which he feels at the highly military appearance and orderly conduct exhibited by the militia and volunteers during the review and parade of yesterday, and at their exemplary and meritorious deportment generally since their arrival in camp. The progress in discipline made by Col. Allen's regiment in three days was perhaps never surpassed. Indeed, the greatest credit is due to almost every corps for their great exertions.

In the assembling of large bodies of militia we have too often witnessed a disposition in many of them to noise, disturbance, and disorganization. We have seen men acting as if they considered

themselves as the lawful enemies of their country's service and taking pleasure in a course of conduct which, so far as they have dared to indulge it, is calculated to defeat the very objects for which they are called into service.

On the present occasion it must afford heartfelt satisfaction to every patriot and soldier to observe the militia cheerfully enduring many privations which the peculiar situation of the country has rendered indispensable, striving who shall best learn and do their duty, considering their country's interests and their own inseparably connected.

If such a spirit happily continues, all, and more than our country expects, will be easily accomplished, and like a band of brothers we shall very shortly return to the bosoms of our families, satisfied with ourselves and cheered by the gratitude of our country.

P. B. Porter,
Br.-Genl. Comg.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Brown to General P. B. Porter.

Headquarters, Fort Erie,
September 8th, 1814.

Dear Sir,—I have ordered every tent from Buffalo, and that the sick and wounded be put into the houses. In times like these we must look to nothing but the great interests of our country, and therefore I shall this day also order that the sick and wounded at Williamsville be also put into the nearest houses that can be found, and the tents forwarded to this place. It is painful to me to be compelled to resort to this measure, but I find it my duty, as I have no other means of covering the men under your command.

You will order over the best regiment you have as soon as possible; the tents from Buffalo will cover them. Let me know when we may expect your whole force. My opinion is that we shall not gain by delay as it may relate to your command. General Izard is said to be in motion. I shall be better informed upon this subject in the course of a day or two. Send over a regiment to-day if practicable; if not to-day, as soon as possible—say to-night or to-morrow.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Brown to General P. B. Porter.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE,
September 8th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Major Barton has fully explained to me your sentiments. He has induced me to believe that the militia to the amount of three thousand will cross in the course of to-morrow evening. The more the better as you will know, but this number will, I trust in heaven, enable us to beat the enemy and save the gallant remains of this army and shield the frontier of our state from devastation and ruin. I have explained to Major Barton my sentiments. Keep your own secrets. Cross as early to-morrow evening as possible. Commence crossing by dusk so as to be sure of getting over in the course of the night, *and the early part of the night*, that we may settle our fortunes the next morning before the enemy can be advised of our intentions. This will do much for us, as the enemy will not believe without further evidence that the militia of New York have sufficient soul and patriotism to do their duty.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Brown to the New York Militia.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE,
9th September, 1814.

To the Militia Forces Assembled at Buffalo:

The army under my command only waits your arrival to relieve us from the endeavors of the enemy to drive us from this position, in which, if they succeed, the devastation of the western part of New York inevitably follows. Besides your own safety, your patriotism must give you zeal in adopting this course at once. I shall expect you all to cross this evening. I have explained all my views to Brig.-General Porter and the officers in company with him.

JAC. BROWN,
Maj.-Genrl.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

General Orders.

BUFFALO, Sept. 11th, 1814.

On Gen'l. Porter's leaving Buffalo this morning, Maj. Cruger will take command of the post.

Major Cruger will consolidate and organize the remnants of companies left on this side, assign to them proper officers, arm such as are destitute, and put them in a state of preparation for active operations as speedily as possible.

The sick of the several corps of volunteers and militia will be placed in some convenient houses, and surgeons assigned to take charge of them.

Major Cruger will send a company of 60 men, with proper officers, to Williamsville, to report to the commanding officer and remain there as a guard. The British prisoners and deserters in the provost will be sent to Williamsville under charge of this guard. The provost marshal will furnish a list of their names.

Maj. Cruger will station piquets at B. Rock and Miller's and at such other places as he may judge most proper for the security of the post and to take up deserters. In short, Gen'l. Porter relies on the Major to place the distracted materials now left under his command in the best and most effective state, and have them ready to march. He will send across to Erie from time to time such as may volunteer to go there.

Major Cady will organize the militia of Gen'l. Davis's brigade, consulting with Major Cruger.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Major Daniel Cruger to General Porter.

BUFFALO, September 12th, 1814.

SIR,—The "materials" under my command at this place are still in a "distracted state," officers as well as men. From the want of intelligence as well as a disposition on the part of the officers, I cannot find one under my command that will answer for a quartermaster. I have therefore to request of you that you will be so good as to permit Quartermaster Graham to remain with me.

I expect that you continue to receive from this side volunteers. Bad provisions and incomplete rations will make patriots though a love of country will not.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

Report of Hospital Surgeon Lovell of the State of Diseases among the Troops on the Niagara Frontier During the Campaign of 1814.

The troops engaged in this brilliant campaign on the Niagara began to collect there about the beginning of April, under the command of General Scott. They were encamped on an eminence north of Buffalo village, having a thick wood in front which extended to the bank of the river, the ground being in part swampy and wet. On the left of the encampment was a large marsh extending from the high ground to the margin of the lake. The winds from the lake at this season were remarkably cold and chilling; resembling in sensation exactly the east winds which prevail on the Atlantic during the spring, and have an astonishing effect upon vegetation, the trees around the encampment having the appearance of winter, while those five or six miles from the lake shore were covered with verdure. Notwithstanding this, the troops were remarkably healthy, only one or two deaths occuring before they crossed the the Niagara on the 3rd of July—even the demon diarrhœa appeared to have been exorcised by the mystical power of strict discipline and rigid police.

In June a number of new recruits joined the army, and several were collected from the various hospitals, the latter principally composed of the miserable refuse of society who never had energy to demonstrate that they lived, and scarcely enough to prove that they existed. With these last detachments arrived our old acquaintances, which, however, were easily checked, and much seldomer returned than in any former campaign. This was undoubtedly to be attributed to the improvement in police.

During June the weather became very warm, and a thick fog arose from the marsh and woods at sunset and remained for sometime after sunrise. During this month intermittent, acute rheumatism and typhus fever were the prevailing complaints. The intermittents were very irregular and obstinate * * * *

Rheumatism during the whole war generally put on a remitting form. This was particularly obvious whenever intermittent fever prevailed, and more especially this season.

Many of the cases of typhus, about the end of May, were remarkably severe.

On the first of August a general hospital was established at Williamsville, eleven miles east from Buffalo. The number of sick during the remainder of the season at this place varied from 3 to 400; the number of wounded being somewhat greater.

The troops suffered much during the siege of Fort Erie, and

soon after it was raised the rainy season commenced. Dysentery and diarrhœa were the principal diseases.

About the end of September a large detachment of militia crossed the Niagara under General P. B. Porter. Diarrhœa, typhus and idiopathic dysentery very soon made their appearance among them; the two latter were extremely severe.

(From Mann's Medical History of the War.)

Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

Letter of Sept. 19th, 1814.

N. B.

This letter was inadvertently printed as it appeared in the *London Gazette* of 16th November, 1814.—See Part I., pp. 204-6. The following omissions and alterations were made in the original manuscript:

After *Sir* in first line the words "Referring to"—omitted; *giving* in same line altered to *gave.*

After *5,000,* p. 206, the following omission: "I enclose an extract from a letter which has accidentally fallen into my hands, which will afford Your Excellency some details as to the enemy's force and loss, particularly in officers. Brig.-Gen. Ripley, &c., &c., are among the wounded." On the same line "two hundred and fifty prisoners" is altered to "200 prisoners"—this may have been a clerical or typographical error.

After the concluding word *present,* the following paragraphs are omitted:

"Being now unencumbered with heavy guns, for which I had no efficient supply of ammunition, this division is again moveable and ready, and most anxious to be afforded an opportunity of showing that it is only behind works or in thick woods that he can expect to gain any advantage over British troops. The 97th Regiment has joined. I propose sending that of De Watteville to the rear. Until supplied with ammunition (and guns) by means of the squadron, for to no other means of transport can we look for the next three months, Your Excellency will see the utter impossibility of any further operations against Fort Erie being undertaken by this division. It is not my intention, however, to throw open this part of the country by withdrawing the troops behind the Chippawa, as long as it may be possible to keep them in the field. The privations and hardships, however, to which they are exposed in their present situation must ere long occasion disease, which is in fact already making its appearance in many of the corps. Every

exertion is making to prepare winter accommodation for the troops."

"As no further offensive operations can be undertaken for the present, I propose leaving the command in the hands of Major-General Stovin, who will be assisted by Major-General DeWatteville, and returning shortly toward the lower part of the Province."

Extract of Intercepted Letter Enclosed in Lieut.-General Drummond's Despatch to Sir George Prevost of 19th Sept., 1814.

The enemies' batteries having annoyed us much, and a new one of four guns being complete, which would rake our camp, General Brown determined to attempt them by assault. General P. B. Porter, with the New York Militia in two columns, headed by the riflemen under Colonel Gibson and Major Brooke of the 23rd Infantry, were ordered to assault the right of their position. When the firing commenced Generals Ripley and Miller, at the head of the residue of their brigades, were to storm in front. Our plan was completely successful. We took all their batteries, spiked their guns, knocked off their trunnions, blew up the magazines, made 350 prisoners, killed and wounded an immense number, and finally returned to our intrenchments in good order. Our loss in men was small, that of officers immensely disproportionate, which I attribute to the total difference of their uniform, enabling the enemy to distinguish them. I am unable to give all the names, but recollect the following: Killed—Captain Armistead, 1st Rifles; Captain Bradford, 21st Infantry. Wounded—Col. Gibson, 4th Rifles, mortally; Major Trimble, 19th; Captain Ramsay, 1st Rifles; General Ripley, Lt.-Col. Aspinwall, Lieut. Childs, and many other officers of the regulars and militia whose names I have not learnt. Lt.-Col. Wood and Adjutant Bullard, missing.

Captain J. L. Hill, 41st Regt., to Lieut.-General Drummond.

WOODHOUSE, 22nd Sept., 1814.

(Extract.)

This morning eight officers and 136 soldiers and women arrived from Kentucky, being the first division of prisoners taken on Lake Erie and at Moravian Town. The men are almost naked, most of them without shoes, and many of them suffering from fever and ague.

Royal Navy—One lieutenant, one sailing master, one midshipman, eighteen seamen.

41st Regt.—One captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, 98 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment — Four non-commissioned officers and privates, sixteen women and children.

Brevet-Major Muir to Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Evans.

(Extract.)

On the 27th September I went to Long Point, where I arrived on the 30th. I found nearly a quarter of those who had cossed over, in all the different stages of sickness, even to death itself. On the 25th October three vessels anchored in the bay and a boat came ashore, and I was informed that the prisoners were on board, but that many of them were sick. Soon after, the boats arrived at the beach with some dead, others dying, and one-half of them unable to help themselves in any manner whatever.

In short, we lost six men and one woman that night, and it was the doctor's opinion that not one in twenty who were called well would ever recover their strength and appearance. I was informed by the non-comissioned officers that there was not a town they were marched through but they were surrounded by a parcel of people offering them money and making use of every means to seduce them from their allegiance.

Assistant-Surgeon Kennedy to Lieutenant-Colonel Evans.

(Extract.)

Long Point, 7th October, 1814.

The further we advanced the scene of misery deepened. and from wretchedness we arrived gradually to the essence of everything miserable, nakedness, uncleanness, disease and death. I should not have objected to have taken a single countenance under my care, but the poor fellows were anxious to get on, and, although barefooted and naked, I allowed them to go where they could get some comfortables.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

Headquarters, Montreal,
4th October, 1814.

(No. 197.) **(Extract.)**

I intend proceeding to Kingston to-morrow to discuss with Sir James Yeo and Sir Gordon Drummond, a plan for the construction of vessels during the winter on Lake Erie at Long Point and Lake Huron at Matchedash, and attacking Sackett's Harbor next campaign.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,
11th October, 1814.

(No. 199.) **(Extract.)**

The enemy discontinued the blockade of Kingston the day before I arrived. The vigilance of the American cruisers on Lake Ontario was felt even by our batteaux creeping along the shore with provisions for the Right Division. In consequence I found the wants of that portion of the army had grown to an alarming extent. The *St. Lawrence* is not quite ready to take the lake, but it is expected she will be on the 15th or 16th, when the squadron will proceed directly to the Niagara with a small proportion of supplies for the troops. Reinforcements Sir James Yeo declines taking, for fear of being brought to action by Commodore Chauncey, but as soon as he learns that the American fleet is in Sackett's Harbor and laid up for the winter, he will then be disposed to convey supplies and remove the sick and disabled. I have ordered the 90th Regt., about 950 rank and file, to proceed by land immediately to York, whence I hope it may be conveyed to Niagara by water by the ships of war. The naval ascendency has been obtained too late to attempt the destruction of Sackett's Harbor. The quantity of provisions in store at this post is not sufficient for the supply of the two divisions during the winter.

It is decided preparations shall be made immediately for the establishment of a military post and dockyard near Matchedash Bay, to gain the ascendency on Lake Huron. The only route practicable is from York to Lake Simcoe and the Matchedash River.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,
UPPER CANADA, 18th Oct., 1814.

(No. 200.)

MY LORD,—The American Government having availed itself of the naval ascendency it possessed on Lake Ontario and on Lake Erie to bring from Sackett's Harbor and Detroit, on board its vessels, considerable reinforcements and extensive supplies to General Brown's army occupying Buffalo and Fort Erie, Lieut.-General Drummond's situation, with scanty resources for the support of a force reduced by sickness and contests, was becoming daily more critical.

The state of the roads from hence to York being represented as impracticable for the movement of any considerable number of men or any adequate quantity of provisions, I had nothing to hope

for the Lieut.-General's relief but from the exertions of Sir James Yeo.

On the 12th inst. a reconnoissance pushed into the neighbourhood of Sackett's Harbor, and returned with intelligence that Commodore Chauncey's ships were anchored under the batteries, indicating a disposition on his part to await there the result of the superiority we had just obtained, and in the event of an attack to co-operate in the defence of the place.

In consequence, Sir James Yeo, with difficulty, consented to receive on board his vessels * a wing of the 90th Regt., in addition to a small proportion of ordnance, ordnance stores, and provisions, and sailed from hence for Niagara on the 16th inst., leaving me with the assurance that he would return as soon as possible with as many of the sick and disabled of the Right Division as were in a situation to be removed, and convey another and much more ample supply of provisions, stores and men, previous to the closing of the navigation.

The stores required for the equipment of the *St. Lawrence* have absorbed nearly the whole of the summer transport. Military operations are unavoidably combined with naval co-operation, and unconditionally dependent upon it. This conviction has excited a struggle for ascendency on the water that has drawn forth on both sides an array of vessels that could never have been anticipated in these inland waters, and the naval commanders have, I am afraid, in consequence been led to consider themselves as directing squadrons which by a trial of strength were to decide the fate of the war, forgetting their necessary identity with the land force for the general prosperity of the common cause. Thus, instead of that zealous, prompt, and cheerful co-operation so essential to the movement and very existence of His Majesty's troops on this widely extended frontier, every demand, either for the transport of men or stores, is considered as hampering the powers of the fleet and endangering its safety.

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* Guns.

St. Lawrence, ... 110.
Prince Regent, ... 58.
Princess Charlotte, ... 42.
Montreal, ... 23.
Niagara, ... 21.
Charwell, ... 14. } at York or Niagara.
Star, ... 14. }
Magnet, ... 12. }
Netley, (burnt to avoid capture,) 10. }

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

KINGSTON, 23rd October, 1814.

No. 201.) **(Extract.)**

I have called upon Sir James Yeo to transport one company of Royal Artillery and a brigade of 9-pounders, the 9th Regiment, 850 rank and file, and the 37th Regiment, 600 rank and file, to enable Lieutenant-General Drummond to compel General Brown to retire from Fort Erie before winter sets in.

(From Boston Columbian Centinel.)

Extract from a Letter Dated at Buffalo, 25th October, 1814.

The militia and volunteers have crossed to this side. General Brown's division was crossing on Saturday and Sunday. Thus endeth the campaign of General Izard, (Amperzand the soldiers call him, in allusion to his round about march from Plattsburg to Fort Erie.) He left Plattsburg on the 24th of August and arrived at Fort Erie on October 12th.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

KINGSTON, 1st November, 1814.

(No. 203.) **(Extract.)**

Sir James Yeo sailed this morning for Niagara with a favorable wind, having a company of Royal Artillery, the 37th Regiment, and detachments of the 6th and 82d on board, being about 1,200 men, with supplies of provisions.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

MONTREAL, 5th November, 1814.

(No. 204.) **(Extract.)**

Having ascertained that General Brown had arrived at Sackett's Harbor and that 2,000 men from Fort Erie were on the march for that place, I was satisfied that the object of the temporary removal of headquarters to Kingston was obtained, and returned to Montreal.

Distribution of the Right Division.

8th November, 1814.

	Rank and File. Effectives.	Sick.	
Fort Niagara:			
Royal Marine Artillery	53	1	
41st	483	34	
Detachments	10		
	——		— 581
Fort George:			
Royal Artillery	51		
De Watteville's Regiment	475	72	
	——		— 598
Fort Missassauga:			
Royal Artillery	78		
90th Regiment	202	11	
	——		— 291
Queenston:			
19th Light Dragoons	50	32	
Royal Artillery	14		
89th, 2nd Batt	206	37	
100th	229	88	
	——		— 656
Niagara Falls:			
Royal Artillery	95		
1st Royals	408	30	
82d Regt	477	85	
90th do.	565	20	
97th do.	414	18	
	——		—2112
Chippawa and Advance:			
19th Light Dragoons	39	2	
Royal Artillery	109	7	
6th, 1st Battn	699	65	
37th Regt	586	25	
Glengarry Light Infantry	222	10	
Niagara Guides	20		
	——		—1784
Burlington:			
Royal Artillery	32		
103d Regt	311	326	
Detachments	1	4	
	——		——674

York:

Royal Artillery	36	5
8th, 1st Battn	44	71
41st Regt	2	59
89th, 2nd Battn	144	118
100th Regt	14	43
103rd do		44
Glengarry Light Infantry	26	19
Detachments	102	101
	——	——856

Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Evans, 41st Regiment, to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey.

(Extract.)

KINGSTON, 10th November, 1814.

All the officers and almost all the men were ill when they arrived, and I fear a great number will never recover. I also understand that every enticement was held out to them when in confinement to enter into the American service, and that their recruiting parties even went into the depots of Newport and Chillicothe, when they induced a few men to enlist.

Captain J. L. Hill to Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Evans.

(Extract.)

10th November, 1814.

The officers were removed from Frankfort on the 16th July, arrived at Newport on the 18th, were detained there until the 24th, on 2nd August arrived at Franklinton where they were detained until 9th September. On 16th they arrived at Lower Sandusky. They bivouacked on the march, and were constantly exposed to heavy rains without any covering or change of clothing, but there were only two of them sick when they arrived there.

The situation of Sandusky was extremely unhealthy, the river being almost stagnant and the banks swampy. They were detained there for more than a month, without blankets, greatcoats or any other covering save a few old tents furnished by the Americans, not sufficient for more than one-third of the prisoners. There was only one medical officer with them, who had very little medicine.

Had the prisoners been embarked on their arrival at Lower Sandusky, instead of being detained there so long, the regiment would have acquired an effective strength of some hundreds in place of the wretched remains which have lately joined, many of whom have died, and all who survive will be incapable of any duty for many months.

Lieut. Clemens to Lieut.-Col. Evans.

(Extract.)

When the prisoners arrived at Cleveland their situation was shocking, many being sick, without any medical attendance, and they were encamped without tents or any covering in the most bleak and cold situation that could be picked out. The men complained that they were half-starved, and did not receive their rations regularly, and that what they got was not fit to be eaten, as it smelt and was unwholesome. This I reported, but could get no satisfaction.

Dr. John Erly to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.

FORT GEORGE, 9th November, 1814.

I have visited Ancaster, where the soldiers of the 41st, lately prisoners, are now in hospital. All these unfortunate men are, with a few exceptions, in a most deplorable, sickly state.

The most prevalent diseases are intermittent fever of a most obstinate nature, remittent fevers of a bad character and dysentery. The few men, and they are very few indeed, who have had the good fortune to escape these destructive diseases, have a sickly, sallow complexion, and they are considerably emaciated and debilitated. Sandusky is merely a low, swampy and wet morass through which a river runs, and the ground is nearly on a level with the river. This swampy and naked lagoon, without either tree or shrub, is bounded on one side by a rising ground of nearly two hundred feet high, and the distance between its base and the river is nearly a quarter of a mile. It was between this height and the river that the men were encamped. They could not find a dry spot to build their huts on. The rations were frequently reduced to half allowance.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,
16th November, 1814.

(No. 213.)

MY LORD,—I have much satisfaction in communicating to Your Lordship the result of the exertions made for reinforcing the Right Division.

Lieutenant-General Drummond has reported to me that the enemy evacuated Fort Erie on the 5th inst., after blowing up the works and destroying the place.

Our fleet arrived off Niagara on the 2d. The troops and supplies were disembarked as expeditiously as possible, but before the first could be brought in contact with the enemy the American Army retired to its own shore, and is now, I am informed, seeking winter quarters at Buffalo, Batavia, and the Nine Mile Creek.

A concerted expedition from Detroit, consisting of 1,000 Kentuckians, mostly mounted, under General McArthur, had passed the Moravian Village on the 2d inst., directing their course on Burlington. On the first intimation of this circumstance our Indian allies displayed an ardent desire to be allowed to move against them. Their good disposition was promptly seized, and they have advanced to meet the enemy, supported by the 103d Regiment and some militia. Lieutenant-General Drummond has ordered Major-General DeWatteville, with two field pieces, a detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons and the 37th Regiment, to hasten forward in the same direction.

Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.

MONTREAL, 21st November, 1814.

(No. 215.) **(Extract.)**

A body of 1,500 mounted Kentuckians, armed with rifles, tomahawks and scalping knives, reached the banks of the Grand River on the 6th inst., but finding the passage of it disputed by the Indians, supported by a party of the 103rd Regiment, they did not persist in their attempt to cross it, and reclining to their right commenced their retreat on the river Thames by the way of Talbot's road, in the vicinity of Long Point. Their purpose seems to have been the destruction of the mills in that part of the country, and it was then their intention to have forced their way to Fort Erie and to have joined the army of General Izard, but the removal of that army prevented this. Both in their advance and in their retreat their progress has been marked by plunder and devastation, and such was their disregard for private property in this predatory excursion, that if their advance had not been checked the ruin of the whole country that lay in their line of march would have been completed, and all its resources available to our subsistence entirely destroyed.

Memorial of John Norton to Hon. Henry Goulburn.

LONDON, January 29th, 1816.

(Extract.)

At the battle of Chippawa we were victorious, when we fought the volunteer militia, eight hundred, and the aborigines of different tribes aiding the enemy fled before us. We killed many and took some prisoners. Among the former was a Lieutenant-Colonel commanding and a Seneca chief, among the latter a major and some other officers. Coming to the enemy's columns, we fired on them until we perceived our army to be retreating, overwhelmed by a very superior force. We followed.

At the battle of the Cataract we risked with our brother warriors, and afterwards following the enemy to Fort Erie, we then partook in every bloody encounter that took place in this vicinity.

Major-General Brown's Diary from 5th July to 25th July, 1814.

As General Ripley had not come up and General Porter's command had been routed, the left battalion of Scott's brigade, commanded by Jessup, was outflanked and greatly exposed. It was the crisis of the battle. Captain Austin being struck by a half-spent ball, which deprived him of his breath and supported on his horse for the moment by Captain Spencer and Major Jones, the Major-General rode up in person to Major Jessup and assured him of having speedy support. He then turned to the rear of Jessup's left flank and met Col. Gardner, who informed him that Ripley's command was nearly up and would be able in a few minutes to close with the enemy. The Major-General returned, but before any additional force came into action the enemy was defeated by Scott's command.

They were promptly pursued by our whole army, and would have been killed or captured to a man but for the retreat afforded them in their works behind the Chippawa.

The enemy's loss was much greater than estimated by General Brown in his official report, and the services of the gallant Porter and his command were undervalued at the time; great execution was done by their brave encounter with and advance upon the enemy through the wood. They certainly effected as much as could have been expected from undisciplined men.

July 6th.—It was late in the evening of the 5th before the wounded of both armies could be taken care of. The dead remained on the field during the night. Much of our time was engrossed on the 6th and 7th in carrying the wounded to the hospital at Buffalo,

and in burying the dead that were found in the woods and on the plains. General Brown was impatient at this delay. He was apprehensive that he could not arrive on the shore of Ontario and meet our fleet on the 10th, as, on examination of the enemy's works, the passage of the Chippawa bridge was considered too hazardous, if practicable, and the country on our left was represented as an impracticable forest. On the evening of the 6th General Brown secured the interest of an inhabitant, who informed him of an old timber road that led in a circuitous way from the rear of Mr. Street's house to the conjunction of Lyon's Creek with the Chippawa.

On the morning of the 7th, Generals Brown and Porter with the senior engineer, the *guide* and a small guard, explored this road. It was determined that it could be rendered passable for artillery in a short time. Accordingly a heavy detail was immediately made for this duty, and at night it was reported "passable for artillery."

As General Scott's command had manifested from the moment of crossing the strait the greatest degree of emulation in the promptitude with which they executed their orders as well as in the gallantry with which they improved each opportunity of distinction, as General Ripley was tardy in the investment of Fort Erie and his brigade had not participated in the laurels of the 5th, the commanding general was induced to give him this opportunity to establish the reputation of his command, and was particularly anxious to diffuse throughout the ranks that stimulus which is ever produced by the spirit of emulation. Accordingly General Ripley with his brigade, reinforced by Porter's command and two companies of artillery under Major Hindman, was ordered to take the road we had opened, force a passage which had formerly existed near the mouth of Lyon's Creek, and cross the Chippawa. We found that the enemy had erected no work for the defence of this passage, and we believed that it might be approached undiscovered, as the road lay through a thick wood and the enemy had confined himself to the lower side of the Chippawa since the battle of the fifth.

The materials for a bridge were procured by taking up barn floors, and selecting the light boats, which were forwarded in wagons with the troops, and it was not supposed that General Ripley would be delayed but a short time in crossing, after which he was to place himself upon the enemy's right flank towards his rear, when we should be governed by circumstances. General Ripley advanced, but did not pursue that prompt and decisive course which the service he was on particularly required. The day was far spent, and he continued to doubt and hesitate. The commanding general advanced to the front and assumed the immediate command. The

materials for the bridge were then advanced to the creek, and Hindman's artillery to command the opposite bank. The enemy appeared, but after a short cannonade was disconcerted and retired. It was soon reported that, apprehensive of our forcing a passage to his rear, he had abandoned his works. This proved to be true, and we found that he had destroyed the guns of his batteries by breaking off the trunnions and throwing them into the Chippawa. The construction of the bridge was abandoned. Ripley's command marched down a road running along the stream and Scott's advanced on the main road to the bridge, which had been destroyed by the enemy. With our boats we were enabled to cross during the night Scott's and Ripley's brigades and a part of our artillery.

July 9th.—The army marched in pursuit of the enemy, with the exception of General Porter's command, which was left to guard the baggage and rebuild the bridge across the Chippawa. As the enemy had a strong new work on Queenston Heights it was expected he would occupy this position. We were greatly surprised when at our approach he abandoned this work and fled, leaving his entrenching tools and a quantity of stores. We immediately occupied his post and advanced our column of infantry to the village of Queenston. The enemy retired to Forts George and Niagara and left the country open to us in every direction. We could march to the shore of the lake from our present position in a few hours whenever our fleet should arrive.

General Brown had been induced by the Government to rely implicitly on the co-operation of the fleet in the execution of the plan of campaign presented, and had experienced the greatest anxiety concerning his arrival at the lake shore by the time appointed to meet Commodore Chauncey—to wit, the 10th of July. In anxious expectation of the speedy arrival of the fleet, the army encamped, having every advantage in their position of strength, health, and convenience which the country would afford. General Porter, reinforced by a detachment of New York Volunteers, and having rebuilt the bridge over the Chippawa, brought up the baggage and joined the main army on the 10th.

After remaining for some days in painful suspense, we found that the original arrangement intended for our supplies could not be realized. We could draw nothing from the depots at Genesee River and Sodus without the fleet. We therefore were dependent for provisions upon a line of supplies from the rear. During this halt nothing of moment occurred except the loss of General John Swift of the New York Militia. This brave officer was killed by a soldier of a picket near Fort George, which the General with a few men had surprised and captured. Detachments occasionally marched

to the lake shore for forage or for observation without being molested.

The Indians left us about the 20th, and were crossed to Lewiston. On that day the works on Queenston Heights were blown up and the army took a position near Fort George. As this movement might induce the enemy to close upon our rear, it was hoped that he would come out of his works and give us an opportunity to engage him. On the 22d we re-occupied our former position on Queenston Heights, which the enemy had possessed with a few men who were soon routed and fled. General Porter with his usual zeal pursued them and captured a few prisoners; of the number were nine officers.

On the morning of the 23d the commanding general received by express a despatch from General Gaines, commanding at Sackett's Harbor, with advice that our fleet were in port and the Commodore sick. In consequence of the delay of the fleet, the Major-General had ordered from Sackett's Harbor all the riflemen at that post with a battering train of artillery. It was hoped that this reinforcement, by coasting the south shore of the lake, could reach in safety some of the harbors or creeks near the head of the lake and thence be transported to the army. In this the Major-General was also disappointed. Major Morgan, after being embarked, was detained at Stony Island under the conviction that he was in danger of being captured by the enemy's squadron. This information from General Gaines precluded all hope of co-operation from the fleet and of the timely arrival of Major Morgan. It was therefore resolved to fall back to the Chippawa, and be governed by circumstances. It was the intention of the commanding general, (in which all his principal officers coincided,) to march upon Burlington, having first received a small supply of provisions from Schlosser and removed from the army all unnecessary baggage.

With this object in view, the army fell back to the Chippawa on the 24th. General Scott, ever anxious to distinguish himself and his command, was solicitous to be allowed to march for Burlington Heights with the first brigade, and expressed his wish to this effect on the evening of the 24th. On the morning of the 25th he made the request in form, and was so tenacious on the subject that he appeared quite vexed that the commanding general would not divide his force. Scott honestly believed that with the troops he asked he would cover himself with additional glory and add to the fame of the army.

General Brown received about noon by express from Colonel Swift, who was posted at Lewiston, advice that the enemy appeared in considerable force at Queenston and on its heights, that four of

his fleet had arrived during the preceding night and were then lying near Fort Niagara, and that a number of boats were in view moving up the straits. Within a few minutes after this intelligence the Major-General was further informed by Captain Denman (of the Quartermaster's department) that the enemy was landing at Lewiston, and that our baggage and stores at Schlosser and on their way thither were in immediate danger of capture. It was conceived that the most effectual method of recalling him from this object was to put the army in motion towards Queenston. If he were in the field on the Canada side of the strait our only business was to meet and fight him without loss of time, as General Brown had almost ceased to hope for co-operation or reinforcement from any quarter. While the support on which the General hitherto relied had failed to appear, the enemy, having the command of the lake, could reinforce at pleasure.

General Scott with the First Brigade, Towson's Artillery, and all the dragoons and mounted men, were accordingly put in motion on the road towards Queenston. He was particularly instructed to report the appearance of the enemy, and to call for assistance if that were necessary. Having the command of the dragoons, he would have, it was considered, the means of collecting and communicating intelligence.

On General Scott's arrival near the Falls he learned that the enemy's forces were directly in his front, a narrow piece of wood alone intercepting his view of them. Waiting only to despatch this information, but not to receive any communication in return, the General advanced upon them. Hearing the report of the cannon and small arms, General Brown at once concluded that a battle had commenced between the advance of our army and that of the enemy, and, without waiting for information from General Scott, ordered the Second Brigade and all the artillery to march as rapidly as possible to his support, and directed Colonel Gardner to remain and see this order executed. He then rode with his aids-de-camp and Major McRee with all speed to the scene of action. As he approached the Falls, about a mile from the Chippawa, he met Major Jones, who had accompanied General Scott, bearing the message from him advising General Brown that he had met the enemy. From the additional information of Major Jones it was concluded to order up General Porter's command, and Major Jones was sent to General Porter with this order. Advancing further General Brown met Major Wood of the Corps of Engineers, who had also accompanied General Scott. He reported that the conflict between Scott and the enemy was close and desperate, and urged to hurry on reinforcements, which were now marching with all possible rapidity.

The Major-General was accompanied by Major Wood to the field of battle. On his arrival he found that General Scott has passed the wood and engaged the enemy on the Queenston road and the ground to the left of it with the 9th, 11th, and 22d Regiments and Towson's Artillery, the 25th having been detached to the right to be governed by circumstances.

Apprehending that these troops were much exhausted, notwithstanding the good countenance they showed, and seeing that they had suffered severely in the contest, General Brown determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage General Scott and hold his brigade in reserve. At this time Captains Ritchie and Biddle's companies of artillery had come into action, and the head of General Ripley's column was nearly up with the right of General Scott's line. In consequence, it was believed, of the arrival of these fresh troops which the enemy could see and began to feel, he fell back at this moment, and General Scott's line gave a general huzza that cheered the whole army. General Ripley was ordered to pass Scott's line and display his column in front; the movement was commenced in obedience to the order. Majors McRee and Wood had been rapidly reconnoitering the enemy and his position. McRee reported that the enemy had taken a new position with his line and occupied a height with his artillery which gave him a great advantage, it being the key of the whole position; to secure a victory it was necessary to carry the artillery and seize this height. McRee was directed by the commanding general to conduct the second brigade on the Queenston Road with a view to this object, and to prepare the 21st Regiment, under Colonel Miller, for the duty. Ripley's brigade immediately advanced on the Queenston Road. General Brown with his aids-de-camp and Major Wood, passing to the left of the Second, in front of the First Brigade, approached the enemy's position and saw an extended line of infantry formed for the support of his artillery. The 1st Regiment of Infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Nicholas, which had arrived that day and was attached to neither of the brigades but had marched to the field of battle in rear of the Second, was ordered promptly to break off to the left and form a line facing the enemy's at the height, with the view of drawing his fire and attracting his attention while Colonel Miller advanced with the bayonet upon his left flank to carry his artillery. As the 1st Regiment, conducted by Major Wood, under the command of Nicholas, approached its position, the commanding general rode to Colonel Miller and ordered him to charge and carry the enemy's artillery with the bayonet; he replied in a tone of great promptness and good humor, "It shall be done, sir." At this moment the 1st Regiment gave

way under the fire of the enemy, but Miller, without regard to this occurrence, advanced steadily to his object, and carried the cannon and heights in a style rarely equalled—never excelled. At the point of time when Colonel Miller charged, the 23d Regiment was on his right, a little in the rear: General Ripley led this regiment; it had some severe fighting and in a degree gave way, but was promptly re-formed and brought upon the right of the 21st, with which were connected detachments of the 17th and 19th.

General Ripley being now with his brigade formed in line, the enemy driven from his commanding ground, had the captured cannon, nine pieces, in his rear. The 1st Regiment having rallied was brought into line by Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas on the left of the 2d Brigade, and General Porter, having arrived at this time, occupied the extreme left with his command. Our artillery formed between the 23d and 21st Regiments on the right. Having given the order to Colonel Miller to storm the heights as he advanced, General Brown moved to his right flank by the rear, with Major Wood and Captain Spencer, as far as the Queenston Road; turning down that road he passed directly by the rear of the 23d Regiment, then advancing to the support of Miller; the shouts of our soldiers on the height at this moment assured him of Miller's success and he hastened on, designing to turn from the Queenston Road up Lundy's Lane. In the act of doing so, Wood and Spencer, who were about a horse's length before him, were very near riding upon a body of the enemy—it being nearly dark, and nothing prevented them doing so but the exclamation of an officer before them: "They are the Yankees." This halted our officers, and upon looking down the road we saw a line of British infantry drawn up facing the western fence of the road, with its right resting on Lundy's Lane. The British officer who gave this alarm had at that moment discovered Major Jessup's battalion. The Major, as has already been stated, had at the commencement of the action been ordered by General Scott to take ground to his right. He had succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank, had captured General Riall and several other officers and sent them to camp; then, searching his way silently towards where the battle was raging, he had brought his regiment, the 25th, after but little comparative loss, up to the eastern fence of the Queenston Road, a little to the north of Lundy's Lane. The moment Major Jessup was apprised that the British officer had discovered him he ordered his command to fire upon the enemy's line; the lines could not have been more than four rods apart. The slaughter was excessive; the enemy's line fled down the Queenston Road at the third or fourth fire. As the firing ceased and General Brown approached Major Jessup, the

latter inquired where he should form his regiment, and he was directed to move up Lundy's Lane and form on the right of the Second Brigade.

The enemy rallying his broken corps, and having received reinforcements, was now discovered in good order and great force. The commanding general, doubting the correctness of the information, to ascertain the truth passed with his suite in front of our line. He could no longer doubt that a more extended line than he had before seen during the engagement was near and appeared advancing upon us. Captain Spencer without a word put spurs to his horse and rode directly up to the advancing line, then turning towards the enemy's right, inquired in a strong, firm voice, "What regiment is that?" and was as promptly answered, "The Royal Scots, sir." General Brown and suite without loss of time threw themselves behind our own troops and awaited the attack. The enemy advanced slowly and firmly upon our line. Perfect silence was observed throughout both armies until the enemy's line approached to within from four to six rods. Our troops had levelled their pieces and the artillery was prepared; the order to fire was given, and truly awful was its effect. The lines closed in part before that of the enemy was broken; he then retired precipitately, the American fire following him. The field was covered with the slain, but not an enemy upon his feet was to be seen. We dressed our lines upon the ground we occupied. General Brown was not disposed to leave it in the dark, believing it to be the best in the vicinity. His intention then was to maintain it until the day should dawn, and be governed by circumstances.

Our gallant and accomplished foe did not leave us much time for deliberation; he showed himself within twenty minutes, apparently in good order and undismayed. General Ripley now urged the Major-General to order up General Scott, who had during this time been held in reserve with his three battalions. The Major-General rode in person to General Scott and directed him to advance; that officer was prepared and expecting the call. As General Scott advanced towards the right of the Second Brigade, General Brown passed to the left to speak with Gen. Porter and see the countenance and condition of the militia, who at that moment had been thrown into some confusion under a very galling and deadly fire from the enemy. They were, however, kept to their duty by the exertions of their chief, and most nobly sustained the conflict. The enemy was again repulsed by the whole line and driven out of sight.

But a short time had elapsed when he was once more seen, advancing in great force upon our main line of troops under Generals Ripley and Porter. General Scott, now on our left, had

given to his column a direction which would have enabled him in a few minutes to have formed line in rear of the enemy's right and thus have brought the enemy between two fires, but in a moment, most unexpectedly, a flank fire from a party of the enemy concealed on our left falling upon the centre of Scott's command while in open column, blasted our proud expectations; his column was severed in two, one part passing to the rear, the other by the right flank of platoons towards our main line. About this period General Brown received his first wound, a musket ball passing through his right thigh. A few minutes after, Captain Spencer, aid-de-camp to the Major-General, received his mortal wound. The enemy had nearly closed with our main line. Moving up to the left of this line General Brown received a violent blow from a ball of some kind on his left side. It did not enter, but such was its force that it nearly unhorsed him. In the General's own words, he began to doubt his ability to sit on his horse. Meeting his confidential friend Major Wood, he thought proper to state to him his wounds and condition. Wood exclaimed with great emotion, "Never mind, my dear General, you are gaining the greatest victory that has ever been gained for your country." His heroic soul, (says the General,) was exclusively occupied with the battle, which was then, if possible, raging with redoubled fury. This was the last desperate effort made by the enemy to regain his position and artillery. A broader display of heroism was never obtained from the ranks. The hostile lines met in several places, and we captured many prisoners, who surrendered at the point of the bayonet. Porter's volunteers, who were not excelled by the regulars in meeting the charge, were seen precipitated by the incitement of their gallant commander upon the enemy's line, which they broke, and hand to hand compelled many to surrender.

The enemy now seemed to be effectually routed; his forces disappeared. In a conversation which occurred a few minutes after between the Major-General, Majors Wood and McRee, and two or three other officers, it was the unanimous belief of all that we had nothing more to apprehend from the foe with whom we had been contending, but it appeared to be admitted by the whole that it would be proper to return to camp. The idea did not occur to any one present that it would be necessary to leave behind a man or a cannon. It was observed by Major McRee expressly that there would be no difficulty in moving the cannon by hand. Waggons had been by previous order of the Major-General provided for the wounded. General Brown, suffering severely from his wound now left the field, with Captain Austin, his surviving aid, observing to the other officers that they would remain and aid

General Ripley by all the means in their power. As the General moved towards camp, many scattering men were seen by him on the road; not a man was running away, none appeared to be alarmed, but having lost their officers, were seeking water, and were either drinking or straggling for drink. This scene assured the Major-General that it was proper for the army to return to camp in order that the scattering men might be arranged to their companies and battalions, the army re-organized and refreshed before moving.

Being supported on his horse, the commanding general moved slowly to his tent. Withing a few minutes it was reported to him that General Ripley had returned to camp, having left the captured cannon on the field. General Ripley being immediately sent for, General Brown stated to him that there was no doubt in his mind but that the enemy had retired and that our victory was complete. He appeared to be of the same opinion, as was every officer present. General Brown then, in strong and emphatic language, ordered General Ripley to re-organize his battalions, to see that they were refreshed with whatever could be afforded in the camp, and put himself, with all the men he could muster of every corps, on the field of battle as the day dawned, there to be governed by circumstances; at all events to bring off the captured cannon. It was not believed that the enemy would dare to attack him if he showed a good countenance. General Ripley left General Brown under the conviction that he would execute the order given to him; he did not make the slightest objection to it; none was suggested from any quarter.

As day approached, finding that no column had moved, General Brown order his staff to go to every commanding officer of corps and order them to be promptly prepared to march in obedience to the order given to General Ripley, but it was sunrise before the army crossed the Chippawa. General Ripley led on his troops as far as Bridgewater Mills. Halting his column there, he returned to the commanding general and stated his objections to proceeding further. General Brown persisted, when he informed the General that General Porter was also opposed to proceeding. At these words General Brown replied, "Sir, you will do as you please," and had no further intercourse with him until they met at Buffalo.

General Brown had entertained no doubt of the intelligence or personal bravery of General Ripley, nor has he ever expressed himself to that effect. In consequence, however, of the events of the night of the 25th, and more especially on the morning of the 26th, his confidence in him as a commander was impaired. The General believed that he dreaded responsibility more than danger; in a word, that he had a greater share of physical than moral courage.

General Scott and the Major-General being both severely wounded, a courier was despatched without loss of time to General Gaines, ordering him on to take the command of the gallant remains of the Army of Niagara.

(From *Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States and Great Britain, by Charles J. Ingersoll.* Events of 1814, pp. 100-105. Philadelphia, 1849.)

Narrative of General T. S. Jessup.

On the morning of the 4th of July General Riall's light troops were discovered in our neighborhood. General Scott was detached towards Chippawa—the enemy slowly retired before us. The march was a continued skirmish, and on the plain between Street's Creek and Chippawa our light troops were warmly and vigorously attacked, but maintained their ground most gallantly. On that occasion Captain Crooker of the 9th with a detachment of light infantry received and repulsed a charge of a detachment of the 19th Dragoons. General Scott, finding the enemy strongly posted behind the Chippawa, called in the light troops and took a position in rear of Street's Creek, where he encamped his brigade. General Brown came up about midnight with the Second Brigade and the artillery. At dawn on the morning of the 5th of July the enemy began to annoy our pickets, and kept up a desultory fire for several hours so near our line that a soldier of the 25th was wounded not more than thirty paces in front. Some time in the forenoon General Peter B. Porter arrived with three or four hundred Indian warriors and about three hundred Pennsylvania volunteers. After allowing his command time to refresh, General Brown ordered him to file from the rear of our camp, pass through the woods, and, if possible, place himself between the enemy's advance and his main body. To facilitate this object our advanced pickets were directed to provoke a fire from the enemy's pickets, and then fall back to some log cabins in front of Street's house to induce them to follow, and to draw, if possible, their light troops in that direction.

A heavy firing soon commenced and continued for more than half-an-hour, when the enemy's light troops were observed to be retiring, and from a cloud of dust seen rising on the road leading to Chippawa bridge it was evident General Riall was in motion with his principal force, and that he attempted with his light troops a similar ruse upon us which General Brown had attempted upon him. At the time the firing had become so heavy Major Jessup ordered the 25th to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice, and

mounting his horse he crossed the creek and joined General Brown. When the movement of Riall was perceived, he returned immediately to his place and found the regiment forming under arms by order of General Scott for exercise. A few movements after, the order was given by General Brown to march and meet the enemy.

Captain Towson had been ordered to take a position with his artillery near the bridge over Street's Creek, and, as Scott's brigade was compelled to cross that bridge under the fire of the enemy's artillery, he rendered important service by covering the movement and annoying the enemy's line.

General Riall had formed his line of battle with the left resting on the Niagara, where he had a formidable battery of twenty-four pounders and howitzers; his right, consisting of his grenadiers and light infantry, supported by a body of militia and Indians in the wood, was strongly posted behind a fence and a breastwork of large oak logs. Porter's command, though it had for some time gallantly sustained an unequal conflict, had fled on meeting Riall's column, and by the time Scott's brigade had engaged the enemy not a militia man or Indian was to be seen on the field. When the several corps had passed the bridge, Major Jessup was ordered to go to the extreme left and be governed by circumstances. Major Leavenworth with the 9th and 22nd moved forward on the Chippawa road and engaged the enemy's left. Colonel Campbell led the 11th to the left of the 9th, and was about to take his position in the line, when he received a severe wound in the knee and was obliged to leave the field. Major McNeil, who succeeded to the command of the regiment, immediately formed it and led it into action. Major Jessup, perceiving that the enemy greatly outnumbered us in the field, moved his regiment in column until he attained a position within a hundred and twenty paces of the Marquis of Tweeddale, in order to deceive him in regard to the force of his regiment. There he formed under a most destructive fire from the grenadiers and light infantry in front, and the Indians and militia covered by a thick wood on his left flank. He soon found his position untenable, and that he must either retreat or advance. The Second Brigade not being on the field, to have fallen back would have uncovered Scott's left flank and enabled the Marquis by throwing forward his grenadiers and light infantry to attack him on that flank, which, pressed as he then was by a superior force in front, would have caused his instant defeat. Relying on the firmness and excellent discipline of his troops, the Major determined to advance and try the effect of the bayonet, believing that, even should he be sacrificed, time enough would be gained to enable the Second Brigade to come to the relief of the first. He ordered his men to cease

firing, and, lest they should recommence the fire, he directed them to support their arms. Deadly as was the fire under which they were suffering, the moment they heard the words of command every musket was at a shoulder and a support. The charge was made. The enemy, however, did not wait to receive the bayonet, but, strong as his position was, he fled in confusion. Captain Ketchum, with one of the light companies of the 25th, was detached to harass him and prevent him from rallying: the remainder of the regiment was formed across the flank of the line engaged with Scott, and by an oblique fire assailed it at the same time in front and rear; part of the line gave way, but rallied immediately behind a fence. Whilst Major Jessup was making his dispositions to drive it from this position, General Brown came up and assured him of immediate support. About this time Major McNeil, relieved by the position and operations of the 25th from a part of the force with which he had been engaged, with the ready presence of mind and decision which on all occasions distinguished him, promptly threw forward the left of the 11th and attacked in flank that part of the enemy's line which still maintained its ground, when the whole gave way and fled rapidly behind the Chippawa.

After the battle Majors Wood and Jessup and Captain Ketchum examined it at dawn on the morning of the 7th, and were unanimously of opinion that the road could be made practicable with but little labor, and that a force might be put in motion on it which would be able to attack the enemy in flank and turn his position, and the road was repaired in the course of the day so as to admit of the passage of artillery over it.

On the morning of the 8th, General Ripley with his brigade, Porter's Volunteers and Indians, and two companies of artillery, was ordered to move rapidly on this road, cross the Chippawa, and attack the enemy's right flank, whilst Scott with his brigade and the remainder of the artillery should hold him in check in front. Plank and timber had been prepared to construct a bridge should it become necessary, which, with a number of small boats to be used as pontoons, were loaded on waggons and transported on the road to the Chippawa. General Ripley, finding the difficulties greater than had been anticipated, did not move as rapidly as was expected, and General Brown, impatient of the delay, proceeded to the front and took the direction of the operations. Arrangements were made to construct a bridge and an advantageous position was taken by the artillery to cover the passage of the river and command the opposite shore. General Riall, alarmed at this movement, in place of sending his light troops to defend the pass, destroyed his heavy artillery, tore up the bridge over the Chippawa, abandoned his

works and retired to Queenston. Scott's and Ripley's brigades crossed the Chippawa in boats during the night, and General Porter with his command was left on the western side in charge of the baggage, with orders to repair the bridge, pass the baggage over, and join the army as soon as possible.

General Brown with the troops that had crossed moved forward on the morning of the 9th, expecting, as the enemy had a strong work at Queenston, that General Riall would wait for him and fight there, but as we approached the work was abandoned so precipitately that the enemy left his entrenching tools and a large quantity of public stores in our possession. We occupied the heights, and General Riall, after detaching part of his force to Fort George, took a position in the open country with the remainder of his force, ten or fifteen miles from the fort.

General Porter, whose force had been augmented by a detachment of New York Volunteers, having repaired the Chippawa bridge, brought up the baggage of the army and joined on the 10th. The infantry was then pushed forward to the village of Queenston, and the artillery, with Porter's brigade, occupied the heights. The army remained in this position until the morning of the 20th; in the meantime several detachments were made to the lake and into the country, but nothing of any consequence occurred except that in a skirmish with a British picket, a post of the picket was captured by General Swift of the New York Volunteers, who was murdered by one of his prisoners.

On the 20th, the army moved to the vicinity of Fort George, and two companies of the 25th, under Captain White and Lieut. Seymour, engaged and drove in the enemy's advanced pickets. Major Jessup being officer of the day had advanced with those companies to reconnoitre the ground and observe the enemy, previous to posting the guards for the night. On the 22d the army returned to Queenston, which the enemy had occupied in our absence and from which he retired on our approach. The writer could never comprehend the object of the movement to Fort George. We had no battering train, and our force was not sufficient to warrant the attempt to carry the place by storm, particularly when General Riall with a force known to be nearly equal to ours was in the field and within striking distance of us.

We should have sought and beat him first, and then we might have taken the fort at our leisure. It is an axiom in military science that where the alternative is presented of a fort to be attacked or an army in the field to be fought, the army should be fought first, because, even with a numerical superiority, the assailant might be so crippled in the attack on the fort as to fall an easy

prey to the army in the field. Had Riall been attacked his whole force must have been captured or destroyed, and our troops, flushed with victory, could have beaten Drummond on his arrival and afterwards taken the forts on both sides of the Niagara, but the favorable moment was allowed to pass, and we were consequently during the remainder of the campaign thrown upon the defensive. General Brown, contrary to his usual habit of relying on his own sound judgment, was, it is thought, overruled by the zeal and importunities of General Scott, who stood almost alone in favor of attacking Fort George, whilst Porter, Leavenworth, McRee, Wood, and Jessup, and before the matter was decided, Ripley, were for attacking Riall. Information having been received of the arrival of Lieut.-General Drummond with reinforcements, our army broke up its encampment at Queenston on the morning of the 24th and retired behind the Chippawa, except the 9th Regiment, which was left in and near the blockhouse on the north side of that river.

On the morning of the 25th it was ascertained that General Drummond was at Queenston with a large force, and General Brown was informed that he was detaching the greatest part of his force to the American side of the Niagara against our depot at Schlosser. Major Leavenworth was officer of the day. Major Jessup crossed the bridge about two o'clock p. m., and was informed by Leavenworth that a detachment of the enemy was near Mrs. Wilson's house, about two or three miles from Chippawa, but in what force he could not ascertain. A picket consisting of a troop of dragoons and at least two companies of infantry had been distinctly seen, and Majors Leavenworth and Jessup both expressed the opinion that General Drummond would not trust such a force in our immediate neighborhood beyond supporting distance from the army. Major Leavenworth had reported at headquarters what he had seen, but General Brown was so strongly impressed with the belief that the enemy's main object was Schlosser, that he could not believe that there was any other force than a few light troops in our front, which he supposed the British General had pushed forward to cover his real design, and believing that to menace Fort George would be the better plan to counteract the movement on Schlosser, he ordered General Scott with his brigade, Towson's artillery, Harris's dragoons, and all the mounted volunteers, to move immediately to Queenston. The brigade moved about 5 o'clock p. m., and with the dragoons and volunteers perhaps exceeded twelve hundred men—the 25th was about three hundred and fifty rank and file. As we advanced the enemy's picket slowly retired, and it soon became evident that he was in considerable force. Information was received at Mrs. Wilson's that General Riall com-

manded, and that a wood not exceeding half a mile across alone separated him from us. The 9th Regiment, which had been detached to the left, was called in, and General Scott having despatched an officer to apprise General Brown of the position and probable force of the enemy, informed the officers commanding corps that he would immediately attack. He ordered Major Jessup to the right, with instructions to pass through the wood, and be governed by circumstances. The enemy began the battle by a fire on our advance, commanded by Captain Pentland. The 9th, 11th and 22nd Regiments passed the wood, and formed within four or five hundred paces of the enemy's line. Captain Towson posted his artillery on the right of the 9th, and a most obstinate and sanguinary conflict ensued, which continued perhaps an hour. On our side both officers and men evinced the most heroic courage, but the enemy was so superior in force and position, and his battery so destructive, that no impression could be made upon him. When Major Jessup moved to the right he discovered a narrow road through the wood, which the enemy had not observed or had neglected to occupy. Determining at once to avail himself of the advantage thus presented, he left Lieutenant Seymour with one light company to occupy in extended order the whole front which the regiment would have occupied in line, and advancing rapidly on the road was soon on the enemy's flank. That part of the line, being composed of militia and volunteers, fled in disorder without firing a gun, and the Major placed himself in Riall's rear. Here he encountered several detachments of the enemy, all of which he routed, and made numerous prisoners. Whilst making dispositions to attack the enemy's battery in rear, Major Jessup was informed by a prisoner that General Drummond was a short distance behind with a heavy reserve. Sensible that under the circumstances of the case it would be folly to attempt to carry his intention into effect, and that the safety of the army depended upon holding Drummond in check and keeping him out of action until General Brown should arrive with Ripley's and Porter's brigades, he seized the Niagara Road, took a position to attack advantageously any force that might advance, and detached Captain Ketchum with his company to make prisoners of all who should attempt to pass either to the front or rear. General Riall and ten or fifteen other officers, among them the aid of General Drummond, were captured, with from two to three hundred men. The General with seven or eight of the officers was sent to the rear of our line, but several of the officers and nearly all the private soldiers escaped. We had, however, deprived them of their arms. It had now become quite dark and the firing had partly ceased, when, about twenty minutes after

Riall had been sent off the field, General Scott's command gave three cheers, which drew a heavy fire from the enemy. Major Jessup moved with his command silently and slowly towards the rear, keeping a fence between his line of march and the Niagara Road. He had proceeded but a short distance, when he was informed that troops were advancing, and he soon met Captain Biddle of the artillery, from whom he received the pleasing intelligence that General Brown had arrived with his whole force, and was about to renew the action. Not knowing where to find General Brown or General Scott, or where to apply for orders, Major Jessup decided to resume his former position in the rear, and he had nearly attained it when he met a part of the enemy's force advancing, which he attacked and routed with great slaughter. A few moments previously a heavy firing on and near the heights announced that our troops had attacked the enemy there. General Brown then approached Major Jessup and informed him that Colonel Miller had carried the heights with the bayonet, and had taken the enemy's artillery. By his order the Major fell back and joined General Ripley on the heights, by whom he was posted on the right of the line which was then forming.

The enemy gave us but little time to rest; he advanced in line, supported by a heavy reserve, evidently with the intention of charging; his left was almost in contact with the 25th before the firing commenced. Our troops took deliberate aim, and our fire was so terrible that in a few minutes his line recoiled, then broke, and officers and men fled from the field. Our line was adjusted and the cartridges taken from the boxes of the soldiers who had been killed and wounded and distributed among those who remained unhurt. In about half an hour the enemy approached again in great force and in good order, and after a severe conflict, which lasted fifteen or twenty minutes, he broke and again fled from the field. Major Jessup, who about the time General Riall was taken had received a wound by a ball passing through the right shoulder, received in this contest a slight wound in the neck and a shot through the right hand. In a short time the enemy was again seen to be advancing, apparently with undiminished force. To preserve the front of the 25th, Major Jessup was obliged to form his men in a single rank and to put all the files closer into that rank. The contest was now more obstinate than in any of the previous attacks of the enemy; for half an hour the blaze from the muskets of the two lines mingled, but our fire was so well directed and so destructive that the enemy was again compelled to retire. During this contest General Scott joined the 25th, and whilst conversing with Major Jessup received a wound in the left shoulder, which com-

pelled him to leave the field. General Brown soon after approached and inquired for General Scott, wishing to devolve on him the command as he was severely wounded, but being informed that General Scott was also wounded he retired. Major Jessup soon after received a violent contusion in the breast by a piece of a shell or perhaps the stock of a rocket, which brought him to the ground; in a few moments, however, he rose and resumed the command, which had temporarily devolved on Captain Murdock. In this attack Captain Kinney and Ensign Hunter of the 25th were killed, and Lieutenants Shaylor, McChain, and Dewitt were severely wounded. So sanguinary had the last conflict been that when it terminated Major Jessup found a considerable interval between his corps and the troops on the left of him. He found the 25th behind a fence, where Major Leavenworth with the fragments of the 9th, 11th, and 22d, not exceeding in all a hundred men, soon joined him and took post on the right. By great exertions on the part of Captains Murdock and Watson the 25th had been furnished with a good supply of cartridges before Major Leavenworth joined.

On the morning of the 26th, the wounded were placed in boats, and in the evening of that day arrived at Buffalo. Whilst this movement was being made by water, the army abandoned its strong position behind the Chippawa, and, after destroying the greatest part of its stores, fell back to the ferry opposite Black Rock, and General Ripley, who commanded, but for the opposition made by Wood, McRee, Towson, Porter, and other officers, would have retreated to the American shore. The army was finally encamped at Fort Erie by the positive order of General Brown, and measures were taken immediately to cover the troops. Had General Drummond availed himself of this hasty and ill-judged retreat not a man of our army could have escaped. Whether it was the purpose of General Ripley to defend Fort Erie or to cross the Niagara, he should have held the Chippawa, which was a strong fortress in itself. There were only two places where it could have been passed: at the bridge which he commanded, and which three hundred men were sufficient to defend against the whole force of the enemy, and at the junction of Lyon's Creek with the Chippawa, where there was a floating bridge. To cross at the former place so long as the American General chose to hold it was impossible, and to have crossed at the latter would have involved the destruction of the British army, even supposing our army to have performed one-half of what it was capable of; for Drummond, after having crossed at Lyon's Creek, would have had several miles to march on a narrow and difficult road through a dense forest, liable at every hundred yards, if opposed by an active and determined enemy, to have

fallen into an ambuscade. Half of Porter's brigade, with what remained of the 9th and 25th Regiments, would have been sufficient to defend this defile. The American General could have held General Drummond in check during the remainder of the campaign. At all events, had his object been to hold Fort Erie, he should have maintained his position at the Chippawa until the fort had been strengthened and an entrenched camp formed near it; had his object been to destroy Fort Erie and abandon Canada, (as no doubt it was,) he should have unquestionably maintained his position until the sick, the wounded, the baggage, and public stores had been sent to Buffalo, and transports prepared to cross the army at once to that place. By leaving the Chippawa he put the army, its artillery, all its supplies, and the whole Niagara frontier into the power of the enemy. Fortunately for his reputation and that of the country, Drummond failed to avail himself of any of the advantages thus offered to him. Ripley was, personally, brave; displayed great gallantry on the night of the 25th, but he was a junior officer, his flight from Chippawa had shaken the confidence of all the principal officers in his capacity to command in chief; that of General Brown had previously been shaken, who therefore sent orders to General Gaines at Sackett's Harbor to repair to Fort Erie and take command of the army.

(From *Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States of America and Great Britain,* by Charles J. Ingersoll. Events of 1814, pp. 90-91, 105-8. Philadelphia, 1849.)

Major Jessup's Narrative of the Sortie from Fort Erie.

General Brown believed that he must rely entirely upon his own resources, for though aid was promised from another quarter, the daily casualties at Fort Erie were such that it would not, he thought, reach him in time to save his division. Having obtained a perfect knowledge of the enemy's force and dispositions, he determined to attack him in the trenches as soon as a body of militia and volunteers, then arriving in Buffalo, could be passed over. Major Jessup, having three wounds open and his right arm in a sling and being in consequence unable to perform active duty, volunteered to join the army at Fort Erie. On his arrival he found that a council had been assembled and had just broke up, and General Brown was evidently much disappointed in the result. In the course of the evening he expressed himself with great warmth in regard to the conduct of some of the officers present, but he added in his peculiarly emphatic manner, " We must keep our own

councils—the impression must be made that we are done with the affair, but as sure as there is a God in heaven the enemy shall be attacked in his works and beaten, too, so soon as all the volunteers are passed over."

On the 13th and 14th there was heavy cannonading as well as affairs of pickets. On the 15th, 16th, and the morning of the 17th, there was a good deal of cannonading at intervals, and from about ten o'clock to twelve on the 17th it was incessant. When Major Jessup joined on the 9th, he was placed by General Brown in command of Fort Erie. On the morning of the 17th the General sent for him and informed him that he would attack the enemy at once, and that he should leave him with the 25th, about one hundred and fifty strong, and the artillery and invalids, to protect the fort and camp and cover the retreat of the army should it be repulsed. The General moved out with the troops about two o'clock p. m., attacked and carried the enemy's batteries and blockhouses, captured or destroyed one-third of his whole force, and left him without a single heavy gun or howitzer. We had forty-five officers and several hundred men killed and wounded.

(From *Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States of America and Great Britain*, by Charles J. Ingersoll. Events of 1814, pp. 151-2.

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